

*The* **H** *Magazine for the Christian Home*  
**Hearthstone**

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**MARCH, 1960 - 25c**



# The *Magazine for the Christian Home* Hearthstone

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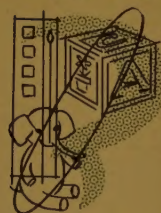
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"Gems to Treasure" is the engaging



title of the article written by Beatrice J. Latimer. She offers practical suggestions to parents as to the use of the church school materials which are brought home by the children.

Eleanor Anderson in "MISSIONS—Family Style" points to a variety of ways for making missions to come alive for the family. With vacation time approaching, your family might want to



plan to visit one of the mission stations, as she suggests.

Spring is on its way and already Dorothy S. Main reminds us that "Your Teen-ager's Summer Is Coming." How will your teen-ager spend his or her summer? Perhaps, among other activities you might encourage him or her to choose a church camp experience—an experience that can contribute to his growth as a person and as a child of God.



Christian parents are constantly at work, fostering an atmosphere of love and understanding in the home. When choices or decisions affecting the family group as a whole are to be made the entire family shares in the decisions. How does your family make a decision? Is there room for improvement? Assistance may be found in the article, "The Family Chooses Its Way" and in the two meeting plans: "The Family's Part in Decisions"; "The Family Faces Decisions."

Coming next month: Adolescents and Their Parents" by Clara B. Hale; "Easter and Young Children" by Idalene M. Raab; "Your Family's Week" by Marge Frank; and "The Joyous Hope of Easter" by Robert J. McCracken.

Till then,

R. C.



# MISSIONS —

## Family Style

by Eleanor Anderson

ARE YOUR CHILDREN missions-conscious? Are they growing up with an interest in the church's outreach to the world? Or is their knowledge of other lands limited to pictures of Chinese junks and thatch-roofed huts in Africa found in a schoolbook? An interest in missions

doesn't spring automatically into being the moment a person becomes an adult Christian. This interest needs to be nurtured and developed as the children are growing up.

It is taken for granted that we, as Christians, are vitally interested in the spread of the gospel. Some-

times our children don't sense this interest. Yet, it should be as natural a part of their spiritual growth as grace at table and bedtime prayers. How then can we stir within their hearts a concern for others and a sense of responsibility for telling others about Jesus?

Knowledge for health is a basic concern whether carried on by church missions or under the UN auspices of the World Health Organization and the International Children's Emergency Fund. Here a nurse points out to Mexican families the importance of fruit and vegetables to supplement the traditional tortilla and black bean diet.

UNICEF





First and perhaps easiest is the use of missionary books. There are new books written each year for children which tell of boys and girls in other lands—a Japanese girl at home, an African boy at school, an American Indian who helps his father. Instead of the usual bedtime story, try one of these. The children will absorb facts about various peoples and perhaps you will find them asking questions about what you have read.

It may be that you can bring missions into your home by having a foreign student for a weekend or a holiday. You can show the student a Christian home in action, and you will find it to be an enriching experience for your own family. If this seems impossible, you might have a "Friendly Town" or "Fresh Air" child to your home for a while in the summer. This is a part of Home Missions that can be mutually rewarding.

You may find an opportunity to entertain a missionary in your home. If your church schedules a missionary speaker, why not ask if you can have him or her for a meal. You may even want to offer overnight accommodations. You might be surprised to see how eagerly the pastor or missionary chairman would accept your offer!

Having one of God's ambassadors in your home is a choice blessing. You will find that he will appreciate a simple home atmosphere and will enjoy talking about his work. What an opportunity for your children to learn of boys and girls in other lands, of how they live, and of how they come to know Jesus! Our children were thrilled to learn "Jesus Loves Me" in Thai during one missionary couple's visit in our home. Another time they were enthralled while a missionary from India described life in his chosen home.

**A visit to a mission field or Christian community center will make missions come alive for your family. Allow time for watching the various activities and letting your children participate with the group. —Religious News Service Photo.**



One of the best ways to make missions come alive for your family is to actually visit a mission field. Does that sound like an impossibility? Not at all.

Our family will never forget the two days spent in visiting mission work among the Indians of Arizona. It was part of our vacation trip. We had written ahead the missionaries telling them the day we would be there. When we arrived, rays from the late afternoon sun were slanting across the dry sage brush. The missionary wanted us to visit a settlement several miles from the road. We bounced along in his truck, spinning into a sand hole once, but always going on. Suddenly the round form of a hogan appeared before us and we stopped in the well-worn yard.

Here, living as their ancestors had lived many, many years before, was the family of Navaho whom we had come to see. The young mother, a regular attendant of the mission church, came out to greet us, a baby in her arms and a small girl by her side. She spoke English. The missionary asked if we might enter her hogan and she graciously invited us in. We were intrigued by the bed rolled up neatly around the circular walls. In the middle was the stove that served for cooking and heating. In this one large room the family ate and slept and lived during the winter season.

Nearby was the summer shelter, a roof of brush and grass, supported on four poles. It was a cool shady spot for cooking and working. The aged grandmother sat there, drawing the wool out into the yarn that would later be used in the weaving of a rug or blanket. The men of the family were away with the flocks in higher, better grazing land. The advent of civilization has changed life here but little.

Our children haven't forgotten the hogan nor have they forgotten how they played with Indian children that evening at the mission. One of our prized reminders of the trip is a picture of our eldest daughter, then four, with the

*(Continued on page 30)*



# The Family Chooses Its Way

*Everyone has to make decisions every day.*

*The family, too, has choices to make.*

*How does your family choose its way?*

y Margaret S. Ward

HOW MANY CHOICES have you made today? Did your family help? Was your choice wise? Perhaps your neighbor needed someone to stay with your children when you had an exciting new book to read. Or your men's fellowship or women's circle comes on bowling night. Or your teen-age son or daughter has refused to go to church or young people's fellowship.

Who selected that new car or television set? Who decided where to go on your summer vacation, or what college your high school senior might apply?

What about your children? Have you been making or trying to make all their choices—what to wear, how to spend their lunch money or furnish their rooms, who to choose for friends, how to budget their time between homework, television, and hit records?

There is no end to the choices every family member must make each day, a week, a year. That is God's wonderful plan. He gives us all freedom to choose, and then we face the consequences, right or wrong, wise or foolish. No child, youth, or adult can escape making choices, and the wisdom of his

choices reveals his growth toward maturity.

## The Importance of the Family

In his infinite wisdom God also plans for his children to live in family groups, where young and old alike can together help one another to learn how to choose its way according to his will.

Christian parents seek constantly to foster an atmosphere of love and understanding, and a spirit of democracy in the home. There is respect for the rights of each member, regardless of age. There is encouragement for each one to express his ideas and feelings and to make judgments in so far as he is able. Christian parents want each member of the family to become his best self. They seize every opportunity to let even the youngest children make choices of their own and to face up to the consequences of those choices. They encourage freedom and independence just as fast as their children prove that they are wisely able to use them.

So Sally learns to check the thermometer each morning to see how warm an outside wrap is needed, and Bill decides for himself what sweater will look best

Sally learns to check the thermometer each morning to see how warm an outside wrap is needed.

—Photo by erb





with his favorite gray slacks. Betty discovers that when she spends a quarter for a sundae she does not have enough allowance left to buy a ticket for the school play.

Sorry indeed is the boy or girl who grows up in a home where he is overprotected, who never has to decide for himself but is always told what to do, who, when he does make an unwise choice, is saved from the consequences of his action. Such a boy or girl grows up poorly prepared to meet those more important decisions—shall he go to college, and, if so, where, what will be his vocation, whom will he marry? Such a person is often unable to meet the pressures of the society in which he must live, because he has not been helped in his home to develop a wholesome, self-confident attitude toward life and the ability to trust his own decisions.

#### Parents, an Example

Equally important is the example of parents who themselves

are capable of making wise choices and accepting the consequences. Not much help can be gained from a mother who one day thinks that she wants to vacation at the shore, but the next day chooses the mountains, and the next day a motor trip. Once the decision has been made, this same mother spoils the whole vacation for everyone by wishing all the time that she had decided to go somewhere else! How poor an example of confident living is the father who has the opportunity to choose between remaining in his old job or relocating in a distant city, and who decides first one way and then another, and finally reaches no decision at all!

Much of the tension in homes, especially during adolescent years, can be avoided if certain decisions are made in family council, and everyone has a share in reaching them. It is very important to Mary to have to move away from her friends, and to have the knowledge of the family-move

sprung upon her without warning is just cause for tension. Buying or furnishing a home, selecting a church, choosing a family vacation, planning how to celebrate Christmas, are types of decision that should as far as possible be decided as a family, together.

Many other decisions are purely individual and cannot in the last analysis be decided by the family, but the family may have a part in pointing out the consequences the decisions may have. Among such important decisions would be choosing friends or a mate, selecting a college or vocation, deciding how to spend one's allowance, or deciding for Christ and the church.

#### The Family Council

Group decisions can best be arrived at in family council. Here all members of the family meet together to talk over the special problem. Very young children may not be able to take a very active part in the family council.



There are some choices that involve all the family. When the father begins considering a change of jobs, he will want to consult his wife first.

—Photo by erb



it is important that they be present. Each child and youth, as well as the parents should have freedom to say how he feels or what he thinks. True, there will be differences of ideas and feelings, but no member of the family could dominate the others. All will gain valuable experience in give-and-take, in listening to others' ideas, in accepting the compromise which usually has to occur in order to bring about a happy solution.

The family council can also provide an opportunity for a democratic discussion of many problems which in the end only one member will have to decide for himself. If Father is offered a new job, knowing the shared ideas of all members of the family may help him reach a better decision. How do the children feel? Can they come to appreciate what the

change would mean in the way of increased income and better working conditions, and so willingly accept their loss for his greater gain?

Some children because of age or temperament may hesitate to bring up personal problems in family council. They may welcome a chance to talk with one parent. He, in a spirit of love and understanding, can help point out the wisdom or the foolishness of a certain choice, but at the same time will not force his authority or choice upon the child. Happy indeed is the young person whose parents have kept the channels of communication open, and who have created a spirit of co-operation and consideration for each other that the child or youth respects. Fortunately also is the child who grows up respecting the authority of loving parents and feeling secure

and protected from danger or the disastrous results of wrong decisions.

At other times, it is the older brother or sister who can be the warm, understanding counselor. Then the parent will not try to force himself into this confidence between brother or sister, but feel grateful for this true expression of the Christian spirit which God planned for family members.

### Living at One's Best

Choices are unavoidable in this business of living. Everyone has to make some kind of decision every day that he lives. When the family, itself, has made a wise choice, or when it has helped one of its members to choose God's will, then the family has fulfilled one of its most important God-given responsibilities.

*(See meeting plans on pages 22 and 23)*

The children will be affected, too, by a change of jobs, especially if this will involve a move to another city—a change of schools, and the development of new friends.

Photo by erb





by Ona Freeman Lathro

# That certain some DAY

"Oh, I do—I do,"  
he hastened  
assure her. "But  
sometimes, Lydd,  
I think of the old  
days when...."

LYDIA PHILLIPS STOOD at the kitchen window absently drying her hands after the supper dishes were done. There they went again, that couple next door. Barely seven o'clock, and they were piling gaily into their old car, waving good-by to their two youngsters and whirling down the street, probably to a movie.

"You'd think they wouldn't want to leave those children with a baby sitter night after night," Lydia called back to her husband who was fixing the kitchen faucet that always dripped.

"Yeah? Well, maybe they just like to get off alone together occasionally," he answered, giving the wrench a vicious twist.





Lydia turned quickly at the queer note in his voice. What do you mean, Greg? Do you think we are d down too much? I thought you agreed that we ould always do things together—as a family.” “Oh, I do—I do,” he hastened to assure her, laying s tools down and coming to put his arm about her. But sometimes, Lyddy, I think of the old days when ere were just the two of us and we would talk ings out together and somehow—find each other. n, I know you’ve been a conscientious mother, and s wonderful to do things as a family such as pic- cking and vacationing. But I’ve been wishing you d I could run off alone together this vacation.” is troubled brown eyes were scanning her face anxiously. She could see he had been turning this ea about in his mind lately.

They had discussed various plans for a vacation is year. He hadn’t taken a real one in years, hile getting the business on its feet, but this ear—with his brother out of college and helping m—they had promised themselves one. The lakes, trip to the West, the seashore—all the possibilities ad been discussed. Yet Greg always put them off, ying, “Let’s think it over awhile.” Now, perhaps e had learned what was bothering him.

“You don’t really think we ought to go off together nd leave the children at home, do you, Greg?” she sked anxiously. “They have all been counting on a ip. The twins are doing odd jobs and saving money or it already, and Nancy has even bought some of er own clothes with money she earned ‘for our trip,’ e says. It would break their hearts to leave them ome. I thought—”

“Oh, I know, Lydia. Just wishful thinking, I uess. I thought we might leave the three of them t my folks on the farm and get off by ourselves—sort f a second honeymoon. Is that too much to ask?” “Why, Greg, it sounds wonderful, but we’d better ink and pray about it awhile. We wouldn’t want e children to feel left out.”

“They needn’t feel left out, Lyddy. Maybe they eed to be somewhat on their own, too, and certainly e should manage to keep one little segment of our ives just for ourselves alone. There will come a ay when they will be grown and gone, and if we on’t have some mutual interests and hobbies and riends apart from them, we may become a very onely old couple—lost and idle and tragic—like old Mrs. Benton who sacrificed and guided and almost mothered her children, only to be left with idle days hen they grew up and left her.”

Lydia was shocked. “I didn’t know you had hought about things like that, Greg. I just felt we ere supposed to give them all our attention these ears, and then some day—” her voice trailed off un- ertainly.

“That Some Day might never come for the two of us, Lydia. Too many things can happen. We ought o live life as we go along and not put everything off. At least we would have some happy memories and be njoying life to the fullest, now and later on too. We wouldn’t be neglecting the children either. It

might be good for them to know we are still persons in our own right—not just parents.” He grinned endearingly, and Lydia brushed her brown hair back thoughtfully.

Perhaps she had been wrong to give every moment to her children, thinking that was being a good mother. Perhaps she had neglected being a good wife in doing so. She couldn’t think when she and Greg had gone any place to eat alone together. There was that little Country Inn out on the highway where they used to love to go—she wondered if it was still there. Once they had planned to do some articles or even a book about their year spent in Japan when Greg was in the service, but the children had come along and they had settled into a domestic routine that left no time for such things. Had she been wrong? Was it too late?

The children came trooping in from play, and there were baths to give and homework to supervise. As she was tucking the twins into their bunk-beds, she decided to sound them out on the new idea which was forming in the back of her mind.

“Would you boys like to visit Grandpa and Grand- ma Phillips for part of your vacation this summer?” she asked cautiously.

“At the farm? By ourselves? Oh, boy!” came the chorused answer.

“Perhaps—for a few days anyway. We’ll see.” Well! No recriminations from that quarter. Probably she had only been imagining that the children felt inseparable from their parents.

With Nancy it was different. When she came home from studying with a schoolmate, Judy Mason, Lydia

## Contented

I may never paint a “master”  
Nor attain artistic peaks,  
But with shades of beets and carrots  
I paint roses in their cheeks.

I am sure to write few novels,  
Fewer still my sonnets are,  
But a wealth of satisfaction  
Can be cold-packed in a jar.

I have never starred on Broadway,  
Bowled ‘em over with my charm,  
But it’s thrilling when my son says,  
“Have a cookie—meet my Mom.”

Some folks think there’s not much glamour  
In the quiet, domestic life,  
But God showers compensations  
On a mother and a wife.

by Frances J. Riley



made the same proposition, but it was promptly met with complaining and protest.

"And not go with you and Daddy on a trip? And be stuck on that old farm with my kid brothers to look after? Oh, Mother, how can you!"

Greg spoke up then. "Now look here, Nancy, Mother and I thought of going to the city for our vacation. I'd hoped you would co-operate and let us get away together."

Nancy laughed incredulously. "You—and Mother—alone together? Why, Daddy, you make it sound as if you were a couple of sweethearts! That's so funny."

Lydia bristled at that. "And what's so funny about that? It may interest you to know, young lady, that we WERE a couple of sweethearts not too long ago—and still are. We may be parents, too, now, but in a few years when you are all grown and gone, we shall still have a life to live." She was quoting Greg, and she didn't care.

Greg said sternly, "See here, Miss, your mother and I might like a little chance to talk about something besides schoolwork and teeth-straightening and discipline. It's rather selfish of you not to want us to have some fun on our own occasionally."

At that Nancy blew up, "But you promised—you said we'd all take a trip somewhere." She hurried to her room, banging the door.

Lydia, confronted by her daughter's anger, began to weaken. "You see, Greg, I told you the children would feel left out. We've brought them up to think that THEY are our lives, and now we are pushing them away from us. It isn't quite fair. We did promise. I just can't do it."

Greg snorted. "High time we made them see we still are persons as well as parents then. We've given them the wrong slant on things if they think we are only in this world to serve them. We'll make selfish little tyrants of them, and they should learn to think of our comfort and feelings too. There should be a happy medium."

"I can't help it, Greg," Lydia protested. "It doesn't seem right to let them down when they had planned on it. I just won't go."

Greg shrugged a massive shoulder and strode out the front door, slamming it after him. Lydia sat there in the living room trying to think things out. There must be a way to make children feel wanted and a part of things and yet not let them usurp your whole life. Surely you could love them as she and Greg had without making selfish little tyrants of them. Where had they failed? Had she failed Greg, too? Surely there must be a way to compromise.

Well, Nancy must be comforted. These teen-agers and their complexes! If only there were some way—and then it came to her.

She slipped into Nancy's room and gathered the slender little form into her warm arms. "Nancy, dear, I'm afraid you ARE being a trifle selfish thinking only of your own good times, aren't you? There comes a time—"

Nancy turned to her and laid her head on her

mother's shoulder. Perhaps their training hadn't been all wrong after all, for now she said, "I know Mother. I'm ashamed to mess things up for you if you really want to go alone with Daddy. It's just that I had counted on this trip so much. But if you really want to go, why—"

Then Lydia made her new proposition. "Suppose we compromise," she suggested. "Didn't I hear you tell Judy you couldn't go to the retreat at the church camp because you were going with us? Perhaps we could arrange the dates for our trip so that we could all go together for part of the time, and then the boys could go to the farm and you could go on to the church camp with Judy. Would that help?"

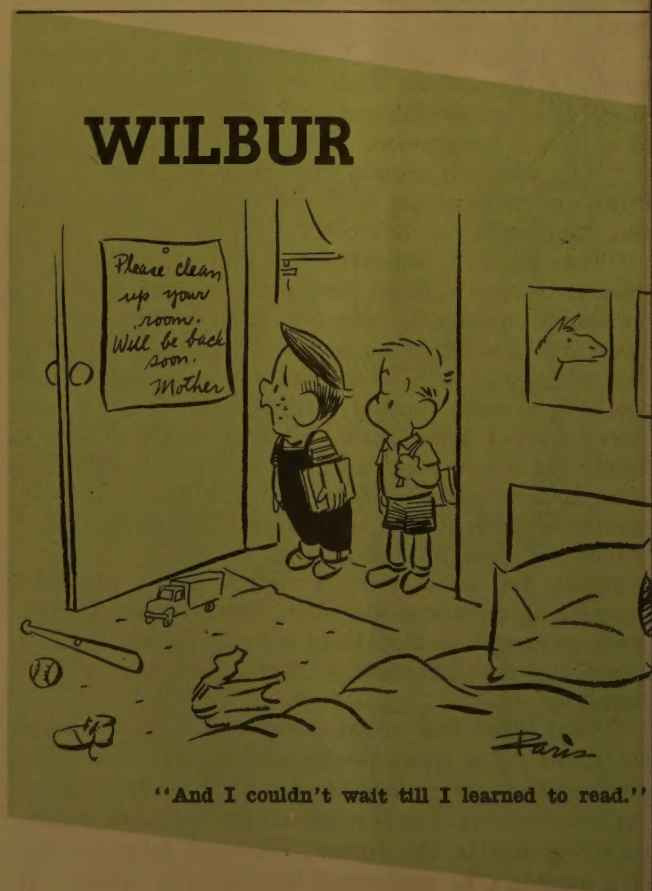
So it was arranged. They took a ten-day trip into the lake country, stopping to fish, camp, and swim for a day or so at any likely spot. They explored the woods and trails together, becoming even closer as a family.

"Somehow I thought you meant you didn't want to spend time with us children any more," Nancy confided one night, as they lay in their sleeping bags far up the Porcupine Mountains. "But you still seem to have fun with us, don't you?"

Lydia's conscience pricked again. "Of course we have fun with you. We wouldn't have it any other way. Probably we'll be so lonely for you when we go on alone together, that we'll come hurrying back."

"Oh, I understand, Mother. I imagine it DOES get rather boring just being parents all the time. I

*(Continued on page 30)*





# Gems to Treasure

What to do with the  
Take Home Pieces"

WHAT HAPPENS to the Sunday church school paper when your child brings it home? Do you read it to him and let it go at that? In a day or two, do you find it on the floor and drop it into a wastebasket? What a pity!

Unfortunately, this happens all too often and is a big loss, indeed. A great deal of thought, time, and money goes into the making of these papers and they should not be discarded so casually. The well-chosen devotionals, stories, memory verses, prayers, races, songs, and activities are designed to bring your child the best in Christian education. We parents could do much to further the tireless work of our Sunday church school teachers if we made full use of the papers in our own homes. In this small, yet rewarding way, we could do our part and not put the full responsibility of training our children on the shoulders of others.

There are many ways in which the Sunday church school paper can be put to use. Here are a few suggestions: First, read the paper to your child (or encourage and help him if he is able to read it for himself), answer his questions, then, help him clip the paper to a folder as shown in photograph 1. Set it where he can look at and enjoy it, perhaps on the dresser or table in his bedroom. (Don't fuss if a paper is creased or folded. A warm iron does wonders in eliminating wrinkles.)

Later in the week, the paper may be taken from the folder. Generally, only one side of each sheet can be used and you must decide from which pages your child will benefit most. You may want to let him choose the section that appeals to him. If it is a memory gem (prayer, grace, or Bible verse), he

may learn it first. Then, let him cut it out and paste it into a Memory Book.

Perhaps, the paper includes a beautifully illustrated story of Jesus. Intact, this paper could go into a booklet kept solely for stories of Jesus. Or, one week, the interesting feature may be on activity: a puzzle, a picture to color, something to make or do, some questions to answer. This can be completed at once or put into the Activity Box to be used again on a rainy day, a convalescent period, or a quiet time.

You and your child can learn the delightful songs that frequently appear in the papers. Paste them to stiff cardboard such as that placed in shirts by the laundry (both sides of the cardboard can be used). Chosen for their sweet music and often inspiring words, the appeal of the songs is lasting. Children will sing them again and again.

When the Sunday church school paper introduces and illustrates children of other lands, you'll find, if your child is school age, a map of the world a great asset in sustaining interest. "Home" should be plainly marked. Ribbon, wool, or string ties the home of the new friend to his picture. (Pictures mounted on cardboard will stand if a flap is glued to the cardboard.) Your child can see how near or far are his friends, learn what waters divide them. He'll be drawn to the map, time and time again, especially if you encourage him to change the pictures frequently, and add ones that illustrate the life of the country.

A bulletin board that a child can reach makes an excellent place for cutouts, pictures, and handwork done at Sunday church school. If this material is changed continually, there is little chance of the child



Photograph 1. From left to right, Memory Book, Booklet "Stories of Jesus," Folder, Activity Box with the Bulletin Board above.



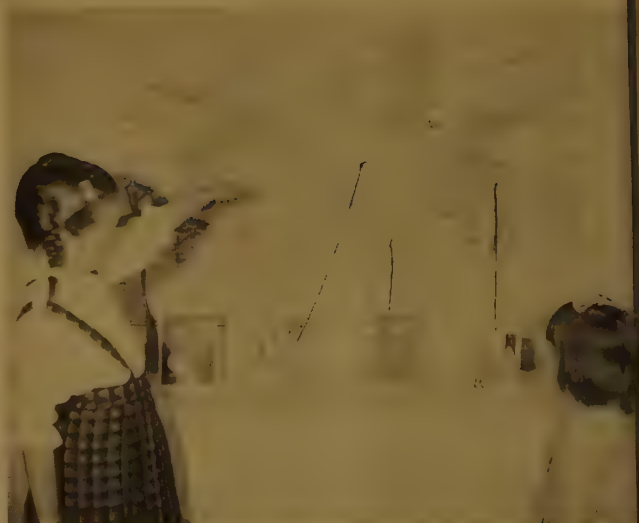
Photograph 2. A map of the world with the strings from map to pictures of children of other lands.

becoming bored. A bulletin board can be made easily by gluing inexpensive burlap cloth to stiff cardboard and framing. Light in weight, it can be hung on a picture hook.

In photograph 1, the Activity Box is decorated with a crayoned cutout of a church. In it are crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue, activity papers, everything handy and accessible for handwork. The folder for the weekly paper is nothing more than heavy cardboard, folded and decorated. The booklet, "Stories of Jesus," is made of construction paper, slightly larger than the booklet. With holes punched and a ribbon to hold the book together, additional stories may be added any time.

The covers of the Memory Book were made of lightweight cardboard covered with fancy paper. The pages were cut from heavy brown paper bags such as one gets at a supermarket. Once again holes were punched and a shoe lace used for a tie. This book is made to stand hard usage. On its pages can be pasted anything a child memorizes, with crayoning or cutouts that tie in. These last will help a child that does not read to recall a memorized piece.

Photograph 3. Hymns on piano are from Sunday church school papers, glued to cardboard.



#### Photos from the Author

Be sure you vary the weekly enterprise and do permit child participation in every respect. His hands may be slow, his cutting and crayoning may leave much to be desired. Just remember, the finished project isn't the important thing. Rather, what counts is his effort, enjoyment, and, indirectly, his learning. Do not discourage or destroy with unnecessary criticism.

Keep projects simple. Allow plenty of time to work at them. Do not make books overly large. Small ones are more easily handled. Have them attractive in appearance and encourage the child to look at them, to remember and repeat the verses learned, the stories read. Repetition is the secret, and the oftener the child handles the material the more likely he is to learn. Books will wear out, of course, but with a Sunday church school paper every week, new books can be made occasionally. This invariably brings interest to a high point. And if you have more than one child going to church school, you may have a selection of papers and your children can share in the projects.

Use any memorized material as often as possible. For example, a poem, song, Bible verse, or story may be your child's contribution to periods of family worship if you have them in your family. If you have not yet begun this practice, using some of the "gems" in your child's church school materials may serve as the opportunity to begin.

Perhaps these suggestions, along with ideas that occur to you, will help stimulate and sustain interest in the Sunday church school. For teaching the Christian way, they're gems to treasure.



# The Church in Your House

## Is the Church

by Richard E. Lentz

I DON'T WANT TO GO to church. I want to stay home today."

"What are they thinking about up there at that church, when they expect parents to use all of this stuff?"

"We worship at the church. That's what it is for. We do not have time for family worship anyway."

To the makers of these statements the paragraphs which follow will prove disconcerting. There are many homemakers, however, who are seeking a deeper foundation for the spiritual life of their families. They may be stimulated by examining the affinities between their families and the Church.

The Church is not a building nor is it an organization. Most people recognize that the Church is more than these. Instead of being merely building or organization—a single congregation—a local church is a group of believing Christians who are a part of the *one* Body of Christ on earth. Their reason for being is to worship God and to bear witness to his love made known in Jesus Christ. When members of a congregation go forth in faith and love to work or to serve in the community, they are the Church in action.

That "things may be done decently and in order" the organizational aspect of the Church came to be. It is indispensable and important. That there might be a place of prayer and communion and a visible symbol of God's love and presence among men, church buildings were erected. These too

are valuable and necessary.

However, Floyd Filson in *Jesus Christ the Risen Lord* reminds us that "before there were church buildings Christianity lived in homes. The 'Church in thy house' was the Church." There are a number of ways in which this is true today. No one would consider disbanding our church congregations. There are too many blessings for all of us—and for our families—in the congregational fellowship and public worship of the Church. Neither would we wish to abandon our church buildings which house the manifold ministries of the modern church and which in their physical beauty represent to a materialistic world the presence and power of the eternal God and the faith of

*What is the church?*

—Don Knight





his people. Surely it would be false to think that Christian families alone could perform the total mission of the Church or that in isolation they could even realize their own noblest potentialities.

Families need always to be aware of their relation to the one church just as every local congregation needs constantly to recognize itself as a part of the universal Church of Christ. There are some functions of a Christian family which resemble closely some functions of a Christian congregation. A family may be "two or three gathered together in His name," just as truly as a Sunday morning congregation or church school class. The Christian family is ordained also, originating in his will and established in vows made before God in the presence of Christian witnesses. There are many characteristics which are common to both the Christian family and the church.

*When your church makes itself at home in your house, your house is the Church.*

What is really meant here is the orientation of church program to assist families in performing

their functions; the influence of the church in your house. Families are aware of many problems today. They know that they are held responsible for some of the conduct of delinquents and others. They would like to guide their children in developing Christian character. They wish they felt qualified to have family worship in their homes. They feel guilty about their failures in worship, child rearing, and church participation. Some very loyal church families, however, have said that much of the program of their church has been of little help to them in homemaking.

On the other hand, many families have said that almost the entire program of their churches was helpful to them in strengthening family unity and in developing useful skills of Christian homemaking. A great deal of this help is not specifically labelled family education but is, none the less, useful anyway.

A large number of families have been asked about how their churches have contributed to the enrichment of family life. The following is a composite of the

major assistance mentioned. They are not intended to be listed in the order of importance.

1. Church fellowship, by including many families, gives each one an opportunity and incentive to broaden its own fellowship.

2. Literature of the church—family magazines, lesson quarterlies, periodicals, books, and story papers—provide good family reading material as well as practical guidance in homemaking.

3. Church worship services meet important religious needs of families; train family members in music, worship, reading, and furnish materials and patterns of family worship that are helpful at home also.

4. Church school assists in Christian family education and trains parents, young people, and children for leadership.

5. The pastoral ministry of visitation and counseling not only strengthens the family in crises but also supplies continuing guidance and support for family activities incidental to the Christian nurture of growing persons in the family.

6. Activity programs of organizations of the church sometimes supply common projects for families to do together at home, in the church or at camp.

7. Special institutions of the church meet particular needs of families in illness, poverty, or death through hospitals, children's homes, and homes for elderly persons.

8. Many positions of voluntary leadership in the church give opportunity for additional development of abilities first revealed by family members in the home.

9. Social action by the church helps secure community conditions favorable to Christian family life and also offers constructive channels for family efforts to express social concern.

10. The history of the Church and its present world-wide outreach program serve Christian families by helping them to see themselves in a world setting, and by enabling them to share in meeting world needs through the church.

—Photo by erb



Family prayers "encircle the world" and support the church and its leaders.



*When your family identifies itself with the mission of the Church, your home is the Church in your house.*

Without becoming involved in detailed definition of the Church, may we not consider some responsibilities of the Church which her constituent families may share? In such sharing these families not only further the Church's mission: They fulfill their own Christian vocation as well. There is space here to mention five responsibilities only—and these briefly, but the principle will be established.

1. The Church is in the world to bear witness to the power and love of God which were revealed in Christ and which are still active in the lives of men. There is probably no place on earth where love is more easily developed or where it reaches more noble expression than in Christian family life. As this love radiates out beyond the family, men are influenced by it to seek God who is its source. The family becomes an example of the Church's witness.

2. The Church is constituted to be a redemptive community. There

the "fallen" are to be "raised up," the unlovely to be loved and transformed by the experience of forgiving love. Most people first experience the disapproval of others in their home. Many know what forgiveness is like because of their parents' gracious acceptance of the wrongdoer back in the family circle of love. Here the Christian actually anticipates the Church's ministry by preparing family members to receive it.

3. The Church is charged to "feed the hungry and to clothe the naked" and to be His agent in meeting the physical needs of men. We have a proverb, "Charity begins at home." So it does in the compassion which the family encourages for those in need. Christian compassion seeks to prevent need also. Many families are active in charitable activities. Are they not about the Church's business?

4. The Church is commissioned to bear to men everywhere the good news of God's forgiving love revealed in Jesus Christ. When reading and study in the home lead parents and children to share

in world outreach through contributions, prayers, or volunteering for personal life-service in the Church, the family becomes the Church in performance of her mission to the world. Indeed many whole family groups have served the Church as missionaries, pastors, and lay workers.

5. The Church is established to lead men to the confession and forgiveness of their sins and to the adoration and praise of Almighty God in Christian worship. Families worship at home as well as in their churches. They teach their younger members to worship. Guests in the home share in family worship. Family prayers "encircle the world" and support the church and its leaders. A family at worship is a lifelong Christian congregation.

Whenever these great functions of the Church—bearing witness, redeeming by fellowship, caring for the needy, evangelization of the world, and worship of God—become the concern of a family, that family becomes the church in its own house.

*(See meeting plans on pages 24 and 25)*

The church fellowship, by including many families, gives each family an opportunity and incentive to broaden its own fellowship.

—A Mental Health Photo

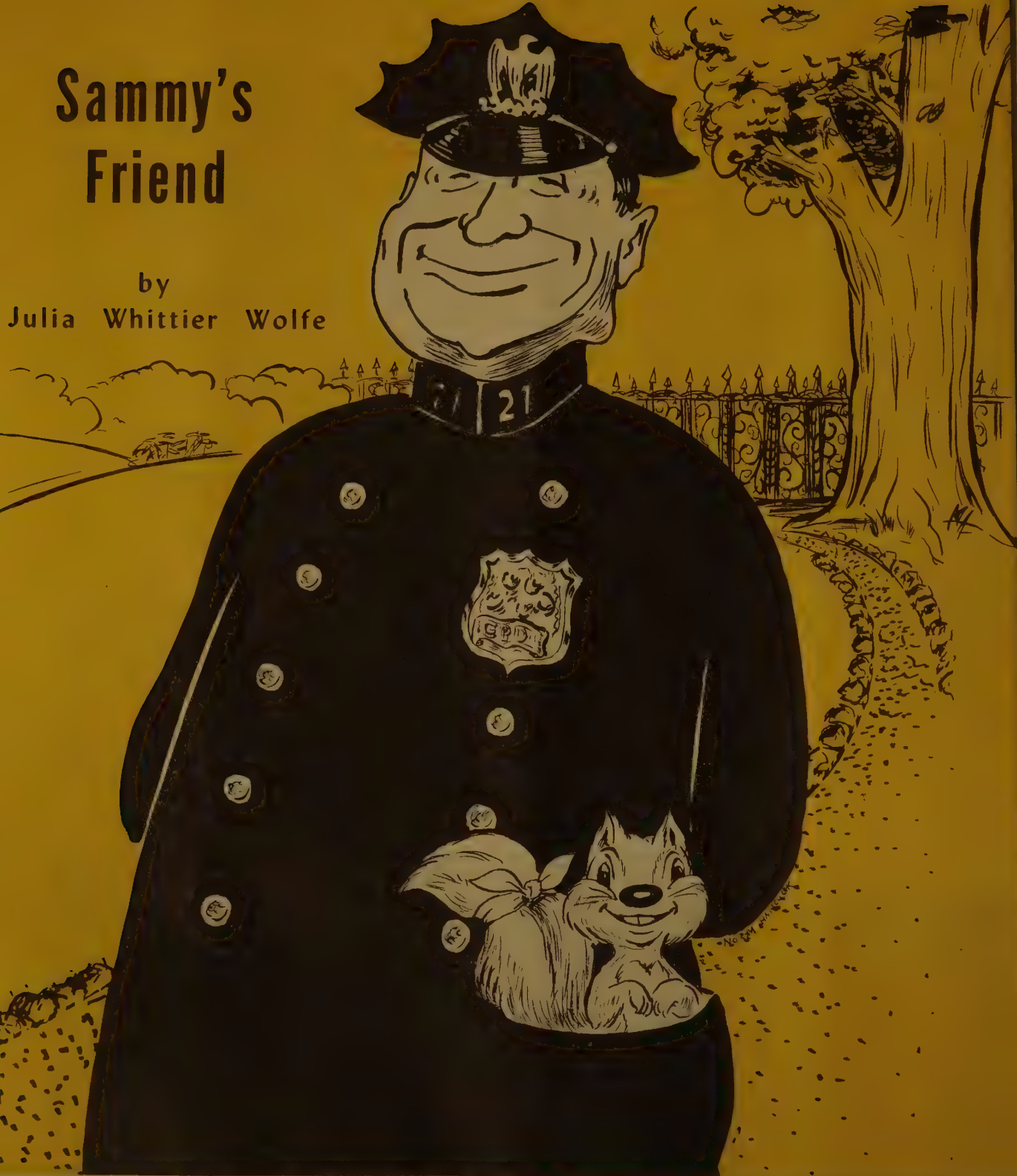




# Sammy's Friend

by

Julia Whittier Wolfe



—Norm Hancock

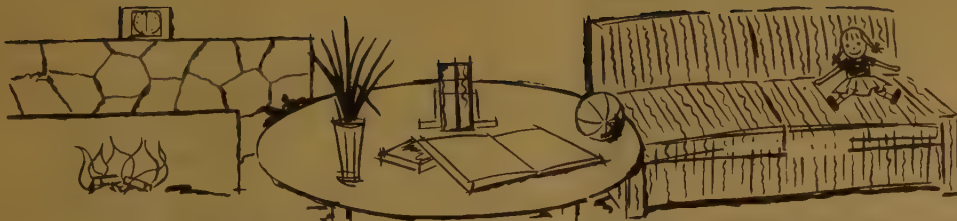
IN A BIG CITY there is a park, and in the park there is a beautifully kept road called "The bridle path." It follows the road autos take. Of course, on the bridle path only horses and ponies are allowed. All day long people ride on the road as if they were parts of a long procession. Sometimes the horses go slow: tap-tock, tap-tock. Sometimes the horses go tappety-tock, tappety-tock. Often the ponies feel so gay that you can hardly hear their little feet touch the ground: tock-tock-tock!

Every rider must be off the bridle path by seven o'clock at night, for the gates are locked by the keeper.

Different persons come and go in the park, but there are two who are there every day. One is a policeman. He is tall and jolly. He knows all the children on both sides of the high iron fence that goes around the park. His name is Jimmy Mann. It seems such a pity that such a jolly person should have anything to trouble him.

(Continued on page 30)





for parents

# FAMILY WORSHIP

Spring is a wonderful time of year! For many persons, it never loses the quality of the miraculous: that after the cold and snow and ice of winter, new life comes pulsing through all of nature to produce the fragrant blossoms and the new green of luxurious growth. Christian parents see in the initial stages of this cycle the evidence of God's orderly and dependable providence for the universe. Their awareness of and appreciation for it do much to nurture in their children the attitude that can become worship as parents relate springtime experiences to God.

Children learn best as they participate in some activity. To nurture appreciation for God's orderly and dependable providence for the world, and to enjoy the changing seasons, your family may work together to prepare soil and plant seeds; you may, when properly dressed for it, take a walk in the gentle spring rains; you may go to an open hilltop to see and feel the effects of the soft spring winds; you may take walks to see growing things in your neighborhood.

It is not enough to do these things; your attitude and appreciation must be evident. If you can speak naturally and easily of what such experiences mean to you, you may share your feelings with your children; or a verse of scripture, a song, a poem may say, much better than your own words, just what you want to convey to your child from the situation. Later, in your period of family worship, you may recall together the outdoor experience and make it part of your thanksgiving to God.

## A Suggested Order of Worship

Some parents may wish to keep their periods of family worship quite informal so as to take advantage of an experience or of small contributions their children may make. (See "Gems to Treasure," p. 9.) Others are helped by a plan they may follow, or adapt, to their particular situation. It may be similar to this:

Song (May be sung or the words read)

Bible Verse (Repeated from memory by all who know it, or read by an older child or one of the parents)

Thinking About the Verse (A discussion of the meaning of the verse, led by one parent; a story, illustrating the meaning of the verse, told or read by a member of the family; or a poem expressing the truth embodied in the verse, may be used; or either of the parents may say what the verse means to him)

Prayer (A child old enough to voice his own prayer may lead the thoughts of all the others; one of the parents may express what he feels or thinks the members of the family feel; or there may be times when a litany or responsive prayer may be used)

Even with an order of service such as this, many parents may wish for resources to use in worship with their children. They may be found upon the following pages. The material is arranged according to weekly themes: "Planting Seeds," for the first week; "Rain," the second; "Soft Breezes," the third; and "New Life," the fourth.

Each piece of the resource materials also indicates the ages of the children with which it may be used most satisfactorily: (K) for kindergarten (and mature three-year-old) children; (P) for children in the first three grades of public school; and (J) for those in grades four through six.

## Theme for

March:

Spring

## Reading Your Bible

Your Bible can give you insight and deeper appreciation for God's orderly universe. Your children need to see you reading and thinking about what you read from God's word. During this month you may wish to read the following passages: Week 1—Psalm 107:37; Ecclesiastes 3:2; Isaiah 65:21;

Jeremiah 31:5. Week 2—Genesis 2:4b-5; Deuteronomy 11:14; Job 5:8-10; 36:24-31; 38:25-27; Psalm 147:7-8; Isaiah 30:23. Week 3—Job 26:13a; Psalms 104:3-4; 135:5-7; 147:12-18; Ecclesiastes 1:6; Amos 4:13; Luke 12:54-55. Week 4—Genesis 8:22; Psalms 104:14; 147:8; Song of Solomon 6:11; Matthew 6:28-29; 13:24-30; Mark 4:27-28; Luke 21:29-30.

## Aids to Worship

Many persons find it helpful to use tangible, visual materials to establish a mood of worship. A picture, an object, or a collection of them may be used with the Bible opened to the verse suggested for use each week. In addition, for the first week of this month, several packets of seeds may be arranged beneath a picture of blooming flowers or ripening vegetables; for the second week, a picture of rain or a small Japanese umbrella, such as often is used for decorations, may indicate the theme of "Rain"; for the third week a picture of trees bending in the wind, of kites flying, or a miniature kite may be used; on the last week, budding branches or pussy willows will make a nice arrangement.





### A Bible Verse

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:*

*... a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted.*

—Ecclesiastes 3:12

### Prayer (K,P,J)

Dear God, thank you for the nice warm days of spring. I like the feel of the soft earth. Help me to work carefully as we make the ground ready for the tiny brown seeds. Thank you for your plan for them to grow. Amen

### Planting Seeds (K,P)

Planting seeds is lots of fun—  
We make a place for every one!  
First we spade and rake and hoe  
To break the ground so seeds will grow.

We place them in a shallow row  
And cover them with dirt, just so.  
Then we wait for sun and rain  
And soft warm winds to blow again.

This is the way, dear God, we know,  
We work with You so seeds can grow.

—Jessie B. Carlson

### A Morning Prayer (P,J)

I thank Thee for the morning sun,  
And for the birds that sing,  
For the flowers and for the trees,  
And for the wondrous Spring.

I thank Thee for the lovely rain  
That comes to make things grow,  
For these I'm truly thankful, Lord,  
And I want to tell you so.

—Jane S. Nichols

### The Garden (K,P)

Kurt watched his father looking at the seed catalog. Kurt liked to look at the brightly colored pictures of flowers, fruit, and vegetables, too.

"It's about time we ordered our seed," Father said one evening.

"Yes," Mother agreed, "it soon will be time to plant the seed."

"When will that be?" Kurt asked.

"When the days are sunny and warm," Father answered.

Each morning Kurt would ask, "Is it going to be sunny and warm today?"

One fine spring morning Father said, "Time to dig up the garden bed today." He and Kurt went to the garage to get shovels and hoes. Father dug the soil with his big shovel. Kurt broke up the dirt with his little one.

Mother came out with a rake. "I'll rake this ground soft and smooth," she said as she went to work.

Father, Kurt, and Mother worked all morning. It was hard work. It was warm work; but it was work they liked.

"Soon all the seeds will be planted," Kurt said. "Then we'll be through!"

"No," Father answered. "God has a part in a good garden, and we have a part. God created the soil, the sun, and the rain. We must hoe, weed, spray, and cultivate. Working together, our garden will grow and produce." And that is just what happened!

### When Do We Start? (J)

Larry was interested in spaceships and rockets. He read about thrust and power and orbit.

When Father reminded him that it was time to plant the garden Larry was impatient. "Gee, Dad," he complained, "why can't we skip the garden this year? There's plenty of canned and frozen food in the supermarkets. I think there are more important things to do than work in a garden!"

Dad was thoughtful. "We could 'skip' the garden, I suppose," he said. "We could buy canned and frozen food, which isn't nearly as good as that picked fresh from a garden," he added with a smile. "But I like to feel that I'm the important link in a significant project."

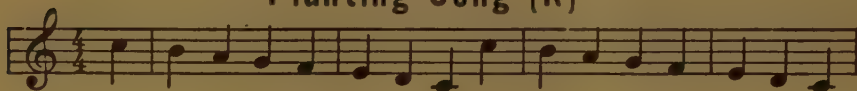
Larry's interest was caught. "What do you mean?" he asked.

"Well," Dad said, "this project began at creation when God said to Adam and Eve, 'Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed which is upon the face of the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food.' Each generation has refined the project so that food now has better flavor, texture, and size than ever before. If no one planted and harvested, fruit and vegetables gradually would revert to their wild state; soon there would be no canned or frozen food."

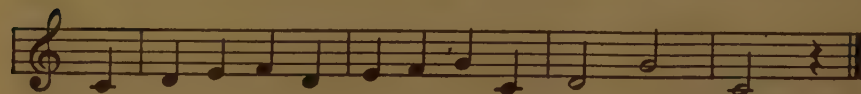
"Besides," Dad went on, "I've always been fascinated by the power wrapped up in a little seed. Imagine the thrust a young seedling has to grow through an acorn, a peach stone, or around a rock! I like to think that I'm working in a process—an orbit, if you please—that reaches back to the dawn of mankind and will continue as long as the earth stands. It links me with all the past, and at the same time, with the future."

There was silence for a moment; then Larry, eyes shining, asked "When do we start?"

### Planting Song (K)



We rake the earth and pat it down, And make a soft nest in the ground,



For tiny seeds so soft and brown, Where they may grow.

<sup>1</sup>From *At Church with Three-Year-Olds*. Copyright, 1954, The Bethany Press. Used by permission.





—Don Knight from Devaney

### The Rain (K,P)

Patty stood at the window and watched the rain. "It's raining, it's raining," she sang.

Peter came to stand beside her. "I don't want it to rain," he said. "I want to play outside."

Mother joined the children. "Look at the way the rain runs in tiny streams down the window-pane," she suggested. "Look at how the raindrops bounce when they hit the sidewalk."

"What else happens when it rains?" Peter asked.

"Watch and see if you can find out," Mother answered.

The children watched. "The tears leave marks on the street," Peter said.

"Sometimes the rain comes down straight; sometimes it slants; sometimes it whirls," Patty said.

"God plans for rain to water the earth," Mother said.

"It's raining," Peter sang, and Patty sang with him.

### Spring's Patterns (J)

Spring is just a patchwork quilt  
Of wide blue skies and showers,  
Of grasses green and flowers bright,  
Of dark and sunny hours.

Spring is like a melody  
With singing birds and bees,  
With raindrops falling on the roof,  
And rustling grass and trees.

Spring is just the perfect way  
God answers winter's prayer.  
And all the lovely things we see  
Prove God is everywhere.

—Marian Russell

### God Knows Our Needs (K,P)

When rain comes falling from the clouds  
I like to be indoors,  
But blossoms hold their faces up  
No matter how it pours.

God knows the needs of everything,  
This fact is very plain;  
He gives to me a friendly roof  
And gives the flowers some rain.

—Florence Pedigo Jansson<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Reprinted from *Hearthstone* for March, 1956.

### Prayer

Dear God, we know that rain  
is needed for all forms of life.  
Help me to remember this when  
rain interferes with something I  
want to do. Help me to be glad  
for all the blessings that water can  
bring. Amen.

### A Bible Poem

*"Behold, God is great, and we  
know him not;  
the number of his years is un-  
searchable.  
For he draws up the drops of  
water,  
he distills his mist in rain  
which the skies pour down,  
and drop upon man abund-  
antly.  
Can any one understand the  
spreading of the clouds,  
the thunderings in his pa-  
vilion?  
Behold, he scatters his light-  
ning about him,  
and covers the roots of the  
sea."*

—Job 36:26-30

### To Think About (P,J)

Read the Bible poem in the cen-  
ter column. What pictures come  
to your mind when you read or  
hear the words? How do you feel  
about God because of these pictures  
or words?

Do the wonders of nature cause  
you to think about God's great-  
ness? If so, do you pray a silent,  
or spoken, prayer of thanks and  
appreciation for them?

God's laws still are being dis-  
covered. These, too, can make us  
say, as did the psalmist, "Behold,  
God is great, and we know him  
not; the number of his years is  
unsearchable!"

If you were to put that verse  
in your own words, what would  
you say? Try to do it; try several  
different ways of saying it. Per-  
haps you will say something like  
this:

"Behold, God is great, and we  
do not know all of his laws;  
the number of his wonders is  
unsearchable."





—Luoma Photos

### The Wind (K)

Charlie was helping Joe get ready for bed. Joe held a shoe in one hand. "What's that noise?" he whispered.

Charlie smiled. "That's just the wind blowing."

"I don't like it," Joe said.

"It's moving the limbs of the apple tree," Charlie said. "Remember the bird's nest I showed you? When the limbs move, the nest rocks. The wind is rocking the robin to sleep!"

"Oh," Joe said, and put his shoe down. "What else does the wind do?"

Charlie thought for a minute. "It warms the gardens so that the seed will grow. It helps the trees to wake up from their long winter sleep."

Joe laughed. "Trees don't sleep," he said.

"Sure they do," Charlie said, "When winter comes, the trees look dead. But they aren't; they are just asleep. When the warm spring winds blow, the trees know it is time to wake up!"

"Why?" Joe asked.

"It is part of God plan for spring," Charlie said.

### Flying Kites (P,J)

Jack and Jamie were out on the hilltop flying their kites.

"Look at her go!" Jamie said as his kite sailed high over the treetops. "She looks like a bird, doesn't she?"

Jack nodded. "All things that fly take advantage of the air currents and resistance to them," he said. "I want to be an engineer, so I've read a lot about that."

"Well," Jamie answered, "I don't intend to be an engineer, and I haven't read anything about air currents or resistance or anything. I just enjoy God's world."

If we are to get the most from life, we need to have some knowledge about our world. Appreciation is even more important. We need to recognize the One who created the world with its orderly laws, but we also need to express our appreciation for them. Try to say, in prayer, what you feel, or use the prayer printed here:

Dear God, we are glad that we can depend upon the orderly processes of nature. Thank you for our world. Amen.

### A Bible Verse

*The wind blows to the south,  
and goes around to the north,  
round and round goes the wind,  
and on its circuits the wind  
returns.*

—Ecclesiastes 1:6

### Robin (K,P,J)

I saw a robin fly,  
I heard a robin sing,  
and once my teacher said,  
"When robins come, it's spring."

So now I think when God  
Sends sunny warmth and cheer,  
He sends the robins, too,  
To say that spring is here.

—Florence Pedigo Jansson

### Thank You for Springtime (K,P,J)

Thank you, God, for springtime,  
For sun and wind and showers,  
For blossoms on the apple trees,  
And tiny budding flowers.

—Claire B. Saalbach

### In the Spring (P,J)

How wonderful are budding trees;  
How wonderful each gentle breeze;  
How wonderful the fresh green  
sod;  
How wonderful their Maker, God!

—Tara Teagan<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Reprinted from *Hearthstone*, April, 1954.

### It Is Spring (P)

Dear God, I took a walk today,  
And this is what I found:

A little yellow dandelion  
Peeping from the ground;  
A tree with tiny baby leaves;  
And this I liked the best—  
I watched a brown bird building  
A snug and cozy nest.

Dear God, I liked your world to-  
day,  
It made me want to sing;  
I thank you for these lovely things  
That tell me it is spring.

—Margaret Clemens<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>From *Story World*, copyright 1950, by the American Baptist Publication Society. Used by permission.





### Happy Springtime (K)

Mother loved to sing. She sang to herself as she worked about the house. She sang to the children. This morning it was Gary who was singing as he looked at the bright sunshine. "Happy, happy springtime," he sang lustily.

Mother smiled. "It is a happy morning, isn't it?" she asked.

Gary stopped singing. "Why do we feel so good some mornings, like this?" he asked.

"I guess it's because we feel the springtime in the air, and that is a happy time of year."

"Why is it?" Gary asked.

"Because the new life makes us glad," Mother answered.

"What new life?"

"Oh, the birds building nests for their babies; the tiny new green leaves beginning to grow in bushes and trees, the crocuses and other flowers coming through the ground," Mother said. "All these things remind me of God's plan for spring, and I'm glad."

"Happy, happy springtime," Gary sang. He was glad, too.

### Thank You, God (P,J)

Thank you, dear God, that I can see

The purple of the lilac tree;  
Blue mountains with their misty height

And the star jewels of the night.

Thank you for Bob White whistling clear,

For all the lovely sounds I hear,

And little frogs whose chorusing  
Brings me the very sound of spring.

—Dorothy Walter

### Thank You for Spring (K,P)

Thank you, Father, for the spring,  
For fat buds and crocus flowers  
And the happy sunny hours  
When the little birds all sing.

Thank you for the buds that show  
In the rows of daffodils  
And for green that paints the hills  
And for making tulips grow.

—Helen Howland Prommel<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>From *Juniors*, copyright, 1951 by the American Baptist Publication Society. Used by permission.

### A Bible Verse

*"Look at the fig tree, and all the trees; as soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near."*

—Luke 21:29-30.

### A Table Grace

Around the morning table, Lord,  
We offer up a prayer:  
"Thank You, for this early meal,  
And all Your loving care."

—Ollie James Robertson

### A Litany

For all the joys of springtime,  
*Accept our thanks, O God.*

For your orderly laws that bring  
the changing seasons with their  
special beauty,  
*We thank you, God.*

For the time of planting seeds,  
*We praise thee, O God.*

For the gentle rains that water  
the earth,  
*We praise thee, O God.*

For the soft winds that awaken  
the sleeping earth,  
*We praise thee, O God.*

For new life that comes to earth  
and tree,  
*We praise thee, O God.*

For the promise of summer that  
springtime brings,  
*Accept our thanks, O God.*

Make us aware of all these blessings;  
*Accept our thanks, O God.*

### The Time of Singing (P,J)

Junior choir practiced after school on Wednesday. The boys and girls were on their way to the church.

"It is so nice I hate to think of going inside!" Kathy said.

"Let's skip practice and play ball," Ted suggested. No one said anything for a few minutes.

"But Mr. Bates will be there, and expecting us. We can't let him down," Larry said.

There was a big sigh, and someone said, "Yeah!"

"Hello, there," Mr. Bates greeted them. "I wouldn't have blamed you if you had stayed out in such lovely weather. But I'm glad you came. Here is some new music." He played and sang, "Lo, the winter is past,  
the rain is over and gone.

The flowers appear on the earth,  
the time of singing has come,  
and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land."

The boys and girls began to sing. The new anthem was beautiful, and yet it was easy, too. They sang with understanding and pleasure. They knew what the words meant, for they had felt as had the writer. Because they knew, they enjoyed the singing.

"I'm glad we went to practice," Sharon said on the way home. "In a way, it was just as nice as the weather!"

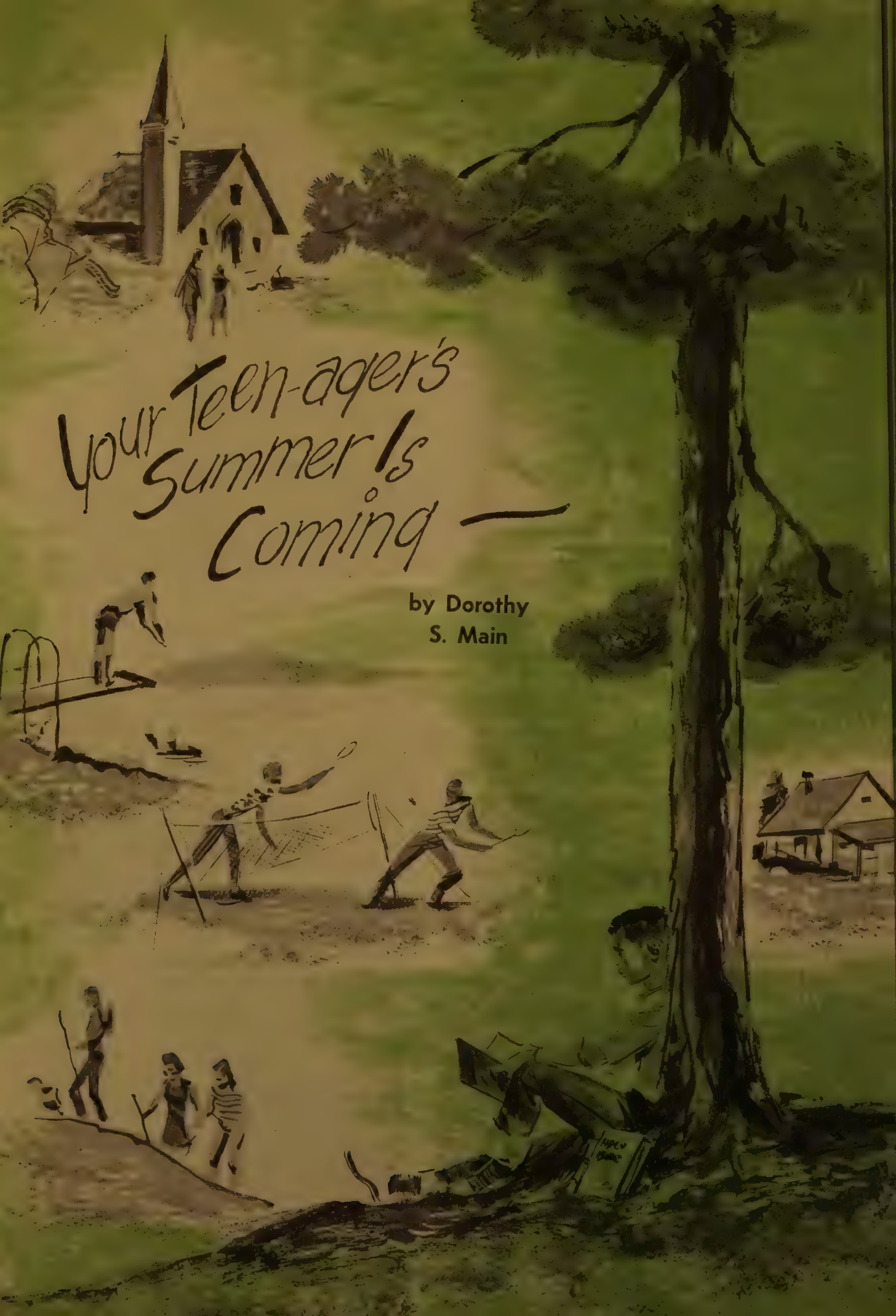
"The time of singing," someone said. "That's why we are glad!"

### Happy, Happy Springtime

Mabel N. McCaw

Maxine G. McCaw





# Your Teen-ager's Summer Is Coming —

by Dorothy  
S. Main



**SUMMER IS COMING.** And the very thought of summer brings breathless, excited feeling of anticipation to your high school young person. Your teen-ager is already looking ahead to summer. He has the sure expectation that something "special" is going to happen to him through June, July, and August. You are hoping that something "special" does happen to him. You will be glad for it to be associated with fun, enjoyment, travel, work, or whatever summer activities your teen-ager chooses, but you also want the thing that happens to him to be "special" in the sense that it helps him to grow as a person, fulfill his potentialities, and relate himself more fully to God as a father and to other persons as brothers.

Among the summertime activities which can make a real contribution to your teen-ager's Christian growth, at the same time giving him real "change of pace" from his academic life in school, are church youth camps, family vacations and week ends, work around the house, and various kinds of community service. As a Christian parent, you should be prepared to help your teen-ager make up his mind about how he will spend his summer, and then to help him make the activities he chooses for these months really contribute to his personal and social growth.

During this coming summer, your teen-ager might increase his awareness that he is part of a large Christian community. He might begin to see the church as a community of persons who, as they give themselves to God, also give themselves to each other, help each other and support each other. He might begin to experience the redemptive character of God's community. Such an awareness might well result from his attending an Intermediate Fellowship Camp or a Youth Fellowship Conference, and/or going with you and the rest of the household to a church family camp.

By helping your teen-ager spend part of his summer in a church camp or conference you could help him have many experiences that

can contribute to his growth as a person and child of God. He would have periods of quiet meditation out in the open in the early morning when the world seemed fresh and new. He would have an opportunity to articulate, and make his own, some of the high ideals that have been characteristic of Christians since the days of the early church. He would have the fun of being with other Christians, living with them in a Christian environment, studying with them the implications of the gospel. He would enjoy and share their hilarious good spirits at meal times as they sang fun songs like, "Stack up the dishes where you are, stack up the dishes where you are; the dishes are so heavy and the kitchen is so far, stack up the dishes where you are!"

At church camp or conference your teen-ager would learn that Christians can live together, study together, worship together, work together, and play together, and in it all be the happiest and most joyous people alive. He would have the opportunity to develop helpful friendships with other young persons, and with Christian adults. He would discover that adults as well as teen-agers accept him as a person and are glad to listen to his ideas. Such contacts would increase your teen-ager's confidence and help him become aware that his ideas are worth sharing with others.

During a week at church camp or conference your teen-ager would develop close friendships with other young persons his age and involve himself with them in community living that involved give-and-take, and required each individual always to work at doing his best and *being* his best self.

Yes, these are some of the experiences that you can make possible to your teen-ager just by sending him to a church camp or conference, or by taking him to a church family camp. These are experiences which make it possible for something "special" to happen to him.

Very likely, you will find that your church is anxious to help you provide such experiences for

your teen-ager. Churches are aware of what camp and conference can mean to young people. The churches take great pains to make young people and their parents aware of summer camp and conference opportunities. They work at recruiting young people for camp and conference, and generally help interested parents work out ways of getting their teen-ager transported to camp or conference and back. Many churches also pay some portion of the camping or conference fee for each young person in their congregation. Many churches have, also, been budgeting funds to help one or two representative families go to family camps.

Let your church tell you what the summer opportunities are, and what it can do to help. Help your teen-ager evaluate all the summer opportunities and begin now to plan a very "special" summer. Encourage him to try to work a church camp or conference into his summer schedule.

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## Take Heart

**"Beloved, we are God's children now; it does not yet appear what we shall be (1 John 3:2).**

**Come, lift thine head and  
catch the winds  
That blow from highest  
heaven!**

**Thy heart shall sing!  
Thy hope shall wing!  
And Faith perform its  
leaven!**

**Cleave not to earth's  
close-clinging sod!**

**Lift up thy soul!  
Take hold on God!**

by Mabel C. Moody



# Two Meeting Plans

## The Family's Part in Decisions

### I. Your Purpose

It is hoped that as a result of this meeting each family will have a new or deeper realization of the importance of the family as a decision-making agency for its members, that will assist them in finding both support and help in the choices which must be made.

### II. Getting Ready for the Meeting

1. See that everyone who will be at the meeting has an opportunity to read the article, "The Family Chooses Its Way," page 3.

2. Ask each one to think about important decisions his family has made recently, and to come prepared to share so that other families may be helped to choose their way.

3. Choose from the various suggestions below the kind of program best suited to your group. Think of the types of meetings the group has had recently, and try to vary the plan. Also, consider what resources are readily available (filmstrip, play reading).

### III. Conducting the Meeting

Probably you will open with a short devotional period. Then you may follow any one of several plans. Conclude your meeting with prayer, fellowship, and refreshments.

#### 1. Talk-Discussion

As the leader you and a few whom you have selected to help you can present the main points of the article, as well as other material from the books suggested under "Resources." Follow this with an open discussion on such questions as: What decisions are common to most families? Which are family decisions and why? Which are individual decisions and why? What standards will the Christian family use in reaching decisions? Probably you will want to list important points on a black-

board or on a large sheet of paper. You may take the closing five minutes to summarize the discussion.

#### 2. Buzz Groups

This is probably the best way to make sure that no one dominates the discussion and that all have a chance to participate. Form groups of from five to six people. Let each group choose a moderator and a recorder. Allow about fifteen minutes for each group to discuss the questions listed under No. 1. The moderator presents each question and calls upon members of each group, or they may volunteer. The recorder takes notes on what the group decides in answer to each question. At the end of fifteen minutes, the buzz groups come together, and each moderator or recorder reports on his group's thinking when you call upon him. Then help the whole group to summarize its thinking.

#### 3. A Filmstrip

Use the filmstrip, *Democracy Is Home Made*. This takes eighteen minutes, and is the story of how the Gay Family sets out to practice its beliefs and to become an inspiration and example to other families. After the filmstrip, lead a discussion on why a home which shows the democratic spirit is one which helps the family and its members to make wise decisions.

#### 4. A Play Reading

*Tomorrow Is a Day*, by Nora Stirling, is a 30-minute play about parents who want their teen-age children to have self-confidence, yet are puzzled as to how to bring it about. The cast includes 10 persons. Parts are read rather than memorized. If those taking part are experienced in this sort of thing and good readers, they probably can be ready in two rehearsals. An inexperienced cast would doubtless need as many as six rehearsals, to do a good job. After

the play reading, make use of questions printed at the end of play, and other questions from 1.

Another play by Nora Stirling, *The Daily Special*, has only 5 characters, and dramatizes a family situation in which there are conflicts of interest, yet the rights of all members are given consideration in finding a solution. This would be excellent if your group is made up largely of parents, junior and senior high young people.

### IV. Resources

#### Books:

Beasley, Christian. *Democracy in the Home*. New York: Association Press, 1954. \$3.50. Especially Chapters 2, 3, and 4.

Maynard, Donald M. *Your Home Can Be Christian*. New York: Abingdon Press, 1952. \$2. Especially Chapters 5 and 6.

#### Filmstrip:

*Democracy is Home Made*. Rental \$2.50. Secure from your nearest denominational film library.

#### Plays:

*Tomorrow Is a Day*, by Nora Stirling

*The Daily Special*, Nora Stirling  
\$1.25, single copy; production packet of 5 copies, \$5. Send cash or check with order to Human Relations Aids, 1790 Broadway, New York 10, N. Y.

#### Pamphlets:

"Christian Teaching Begins at Home," free, from Department of Adult Work and Family Life, 170 Chestnut St., Philadelphia 3, Pa.

"Helping Your Children Form Christian Standards," 4 cents each from your denominational Department of Adult Work and Family Life, or the Office of Publication and Distribution, National Council of Churches, 475 Riverside Drive, New York 27, N. Y.



# Parents' Classes and Discussion Groups

by Margaret S. Ward

## The Family Faces Decisions

(See "The Family Chooses Its Way," page 3)

### Your Purpose

It is hoped that as a result of this meeting each family will have a better understanding of how to meet some of the common problems which face families today, and to reach decisions based on Christian standards.

### I. Getting Ready for the Meeting

1. Make sure that everyone has read the article, "The Family Chooses Its Way," page 3. You may wish to distribute copies of the books by Beasley, Maynard, or Wynn to those who have more time for reading. (See Resources at the end of this article and at the end of the meeting plans for "The Family's Part in Decisions.")

2. Select from the various suggestions given below the one which will be best for your group, and make the necessary preparations for carrying it out.

### II. Conducting the Meeting

After a brief devotional, you may follow any one or a combination of these procedures for your meeting:

#### 1. Discussion

Present to your group a number of family or individual decisions that might be considered and let the group choose one for discussion. Then divide into buzz groups of not more than ten people. Each group is to discuss how the family might talk in council together to reach a decision on this problem, or how the family might counsel a family member who is about to make an individual decision. After about fifteen minutes, the smaller groups may join together. Each group should spend about five minutes making its report. Then the entire group

may choose the best plan to follow in reaching this decision.

#### 2. Role playing

As the leader you may describe a typical family problem and then call on members of your group to represent the different members of a family and to dramatize spontaneously how a family might reach a decision. If you have time, several groups may play the family role. After the role playing, the group can discuss the wisdom of the decision and the way it was reached, or suggest other possible ways of reaching the decision.

#### 3. Minute Talks

Ask the group to list some of the most important decisions which a family has to face. Write these down on the board or paper. Then call on different members of the group (who have been asked to do this) to talk briefly about some of the resource materials that are available to guide the Christian family. This would be particularly helpful if those making the presentation could speak from personal experience after using such resources in reaching decisions in their families.

#### 4. A Play Reading

One of the two plays suggested for the first study meeting might be used, followed by discussion on the wisdom of the way the decision was reached.

#### 5. A Filmstrip

Use the filmstrip, *Democracy Is Home Made*, followed by discussion.

Whatever plan is followed for your program, the meeting should close with prayer, fellowship, and refreshments.

### IV. Resources

#### Books:

Wynn, J. C., *How Christian Parents Face Family Problems*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1955. \$2.50.

Gebhard, Anna Laura, *Holidays and Holy Days*. Nashville, Tennessee: Abingdon Press, 65 cents.

#### Pamphlets:

Life Adjustment Booklets, 50¢ each, from Science Research Associates, Inc., 57 W. Grand Ave., Chicago 10, Ill. Also available in most denominational bookstores:

"A Guide for Family Living"

"How to Live With Parents"

"Choosing Your Career"

"Getting Along With Brothers and Sisters"

"Should You Go to College?"

"Looking Ahead to Marriage"

"How to Solve Your Problems"

"How to Increase Your Self-Confidence"

Public Affairs Pamphlets, 25¢ each, less in quantities of 10 or more. 22 E. 38th Street, New York 16, N. Y. Also available in most denominational bookstores:

"Keeping Up With Teen-agers"

"If I Marry Outside My Religion"

"Democracy Begins in the Home"

"If I Marry a Roman Catholic," available for 10¢ from your denominational Department of Adult Work and Family Life, or the Office of Publication and Distribution of the National Council of Churches, 475 Riverside Drive, New York 27, N. Y.

*Know Your Teen-agers*, Duvall. 20¢ from your denominational bookstore or the nearest Methodist Publishing House.



# Christian Family Worship

THIS IS THE first of two meetings, suggestions for which are based upon the study article in this issue of *Hearthstone*. If your group follows these regularly, you probably have a procedure established for selecting leaders and making plans for the meeting of parents. Those who are to promote attendance through advance notices to interested persons should receive their assignments well in advance of the day of meeting. Postcards, telephone calls, personal invitations, and car pools will help obtain a good attendance. Attractive posters and notices in all church papers, city newspapers, and neighborhood papers will encourage people to come to the meeting. The effort required to get a good attendance is considerable usually but absentees do not profit very much, however good the program may have been.

## Advance Preparation

Each one who is expected to attend should be encouraged to give some thought to family worship before the meeting. Ask each person to read the study article ahead of time. Suggest certain chapters in *Christian Worship by Families* (Richard E. Lentz) for persons of different ages so that the idea of graded family worship may already be in mind.

In addition those who are planning to attend the meeting may be asked to experiment with different types of family worship and report their reactions to the group during the meeting.

A display of family worship materials will add to the value of your meeting. Such a display may include printed materials, pictures, recordings, religious symbols and articles for family construction of worship centers for their homes.

Leaders, of course, have special preparation to make for their assignments. The program sugges-

tions imply three different leaders; social activities leader, devotional leader, and discussion leader.

*Social Activities* need not be extensive but the time is well spent when used in getting people acquainted and in creating a friendly, honest climate for discussion. Proper identification tags of some sort help. So, too, will personal greetings by a welcoming couple. Several table games may be available for early arrivals. A group game may be played after all are present. The displays may be open for examination at this time.

*Devotional Service.* This portion of the meeting is optional, in a sense, for some groups will think it is a duplication, if their meeting follows or directly precedes a church worship service. However, this meeting particularly would seem to require a personal experience of worship in addition to the discussion of worship. The meeting might conclude with a ten-minute informal sharing of experiences, climaxing with a group litany, or prayer. An appropriate hymn is "For the Beauty of the Earth" or a soloist might sing "The Lord's Prayer." A scripture reading which is related to the discussion is: Luke 11:1-13. Litanies on worship are to be found in *Christian Worship—A Hymnal* and other hymnbooks.

*Preparing for group discussion* is necessary for good results. Appoint a leader who can prepare himself before the meeting. He will wish to read the study article, of course, but he will find the entire book, *Christian Worship by Families*, related to his discussion plans. After his reading he may wish to draw up a tentative discussion outline and a plan to get good group participation.

If a film or filmstrip is to be used, the leader certainly will wish

to preview it carefully before using it. Arrangements should be made with a projectionist who is planning to use audio-visual materials. The sound filmstrip, *Family Worship* from the Christian Home and Family Life Kit (Family Filmstrips, Inc.) has an excellent discussion plan built into the filmstrip and script.

## The Program of the Meeting

1. Social activities as outlined to create a friendly group.

2. Devotional period as outlined to set the tone for discussion (to conclude the discussion).

3. Discussion of *Family Worship*.

*Purpose*—This discussion is not to deepen the sense of guilt or frustration of the parents because of their present difficulties with family worship but rather to help them define worship in the family-setting and to provide usable patterns of worship for them to adapt in their homes.

*Discussion Development*—Read to your group the italicized statements on page 6 of *Christian Worship by Families*. Ask your group to react. Allow ten minutes for this. If you are using the filmstrip *Family Worship* show it at this point, emphasizing the discussion questions contained in the scripture. If you plan to use a panel, have several persons tell of their most helpful family worship experience. After this sharing let the whole group participate. Allow 20 minutes for this. As leader, summarize with suggestions from the group.

What are the common elements in our experiences as we have described them?

What did this worship mean in our family?

Can such experiences be planned ahead of time?

When does a family worship God?



# The Family and the Church

## Program Suggestions for Parents' Classes or Discussion Groups

THIS IS THE second of two meetings which are suggested for *Leathstone* readers using the monthly study articles. You probably have planning procedures already worked out and committee assignments made.

It is not necessary to repeat the ideas mentioned in the first meeting suggestions, although many of them are as applicable to this meeting as to the former one.

### Advance Preparation

Again it is urged that each person be asked to read the study article, particularly the portion which describes the services of the church to families. The group may be asked to list the services of the church which have been particularly helpful to them. One person might be asked to read and report on: *Home and Church Working Together*, by W. Neill Hart. Another member of the group may be assigned responsibility of getting all the Christian education materials for the home as listed in *Plans and Materials for Christian Family Life Education*. Your pastor and director of Christian education (or chairman of the Christian education committee) will be glad to speak briefly of the goals of the church for family life. Give them time to prepare.

*Social Activities* should be planned again to create a friendly spirit. If there are parents who are not familiar with the church building a tour may be arranged before the meeting. Displays may be arranged throughout the church building.

*Devotional Period.* A hymn or

two supplemented with a Bible reading and informal prayer will provide the proper spiritual tone for this meeting. *The Church's One Foundation* and *Faith of Our Fathers* are good hymns to use. A brief scripture passage to read is: Romans 10:14-17. Prayers from the church hymnal or informal, original ones may be used.

*Preparing for the Discussion.* Someone should have responsibility to serve as leader for the meeting, especially the discussion aspects. He will contact the other program participants and give them guidance. In addition to the study article he will find helpful J. C. Wynn's, *Pastoral Ministry to Families* and *Family Life Program for Christian Churches* by Richard E. Lentz.

### The Program of the Meeting

1. Social Activities as planned (suggestions in meeting outline for "Christian Family Worship").
2. Devotional period as outlined.
3. Discussion: *The Family and the Church*.

*Purpose*—This discussion is not to focus on the criticisms or weaknesses of either family or church but rather to emphasize their common Christian commitment and ways that they may help each other to perform their respective roles in Christian worship and nurture.

*Discussion Development*—Have your group list on a blackboard or flip chart, ways in which their family life had benefited from participation in the church. (They will have been asked to think about this in advance.) Small

groups may be formed to permit broader sharing if the total group is large. Groups will report for the listing mentioned earlier.


Present your pastor and the person responsible for your Christian education program. Let each speak briefly of the objectives or goals of the church in its approach to families.

Several parents may speak at this point about the family's responsibilities for church participation. The five ministries mentioned in the study article make good criteria. You may assign five parents to present the side of the family in sharing with the church, each parent using one ministry: missions, evangelism, education, and so forth.

Following their presentation, lead the whole group in discussing the family's responsibility for the church program. They may wish to list ways in which families may be expected to support the church program. One group came out with a list of twenty-five ways in which families serve the church. They mentioned financial contributions, of course, but minimized that phase. More significant, they felt, were family prayers for the church and its leaders, use of the home for church meetings, voluntary leadership of family members in church projects, and family public relations for their church.

The leader will summarize, repeating again the purpose and point of view: God has assigned the care and nurture of growing persons to church and family. How may they work together in fairness to both, in faithfulness to persons and God?





by Janet Hall

—Harmon

—Harmon

# Our Best Day

WE "KEEP THE SABBATH" and we like it. I am tired of sympathetic and amused glances because the way we interpret our religion forbids us to harvest our crops on Sunday or keeps me from cooking a monstrous meal for my family, then slaving in the dishpan for an hour. Why does everyone feel it's such a privilege to work on Sundays? We think it would be a drudgery.

Because we are self-employed, it is up to us to decide whether to "keep the sabbath." For most people the boss, the union, or even the state law decides whether the business operates on Sunday. More than likely the answer is "knock off on both Saturday and Sunday." Because we boss ourselves, we have to decide our own hours. For the most part we have decided that Sunday is a time to worship God and have a good time.

Notice we don't say Sunday is a day to be spent in quiet dullness. Jesus said, "The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath." I think he wants us to enjoy our day of rest. We use Sunday as a time to visit friends, skate or swim, go boating, enjoy a day trip, or just plain loaf. First of all, though, we use it as a day of worship.

My husband is a farmer and I'm a writer-housewife and we could easily tell ourselves that if

we worked seven days instead of six, we would make more money. Maybe we would, but we have noticed that the farmers who work the seventh day are no better off and sometimes worse off than we are. I have no way of checking on other writers. Housewives who clean and wash and iron seven days a week suffer from the stultifying influence of all work and no rest and play.

We grow peas and beans for a large frozen food company and are paid by grade. We have been told that one day can make a tremendous difference in the grade during the hot and humid weather which ripens vegetables quickly. Peas, especially, harden if not harvested the day they are ready. In all the years my husband and his father have grown peas and beans, they have yet to harvest on Sunday. They have one of the best grading records among the company's contractors! So Sundays off loses you money? We don't think so.

During the busy season, it would seem a blessing to have an extra day in the week. Eight days would not seem nearly enough! Surely that seventh day would keep our work up to date. An extra piece of ground could be plowed, a field could be sprayed, hay could be baled. Oh, a farmer can accomplish a lot in a day, but we seem to accomplish as much in

six as our Sunday-working friends and neighbors accomplish in seven. I believe God blesses those who "keep the sabbath" with efficient work habits that allow them to get their work done and have a day to spare.

"I am just as happy working. Sure, I could get my work done in six days, but I am not one to sit idle." This is an argument heard often. Usually we just smile and confess that perhaps we are a little lazier than most people.

Perhaps this is the most pitiful excuse of all for working on Sunday. Greed is not an admired characteristic, but oftentimes a family has a real need for money and the breadwinner feels he is doing right in trying to earn as much as he can. When a person admits, however, that he can not live without himself unless he is busy, busy, busy, we kind of feel sorry for him. Doesn't he know how to relax? Doesn't he have anything on his mind but work? Has he no other interests? Doesn't a book, a trip for dinner, and sightseeing in town interest him? Doesn't he like to walk, ice skate, or swim? Doesn't he like to do anything other than work? I have a feeling God gave us one day to find ourselves as well as him.

These people deserve our pity, not our condemnation. We all grow old and must someday face



time when there will be little or no work to do. Sunday is a time for us to pursue hobbies, to develop our relationships with other people, to grow spiritually and socially. It is a time to learn that there is more to life than just working and it is a time to get to know ourselves better.

We think of Sunday as a time to restore our minds and bodies. Our days are busy. In the summer, I am busy outside and inside and manage a daily stint at the typewriter. My husband works hard during the harvest and planting months and steadily, but at a slower pace, during the winter.

We need time to restore ourselves.

I need time to think of something besides cooking, cleaning, canning, and freezing. I need time to feel free to pick up a magazine and read something light and not feel I should be at the typewriter. My husband needs time to spend with our child, to rest his body, to do something different, and to use a different set of mental as well as physical muscles.

Is this time wasted? Of course, it isn't. We don't look upon Monday as blue Monday. To us Monday is a day when you feel refreshed and eager to get back into harness. We are glad to start a

new week and anxious to work.

Sundays at our house are pleasant and festive. The bustle to get ready for church, the quiet and wonderful period of worship, the talk afterward with friends, the quick lunch, the afternoon activities, and the pleasant Sunday evenings all make us look forward to Sunday as a very special day. We feel we would be cheating ourselves as well as God if we did something as workaday as plowing or scrubbing a floor on such a special day. The Lord gave us this day to worship and restore ourselves—only the foolish turn down this wonderful gift.

by Hilda E. Allen

## BIBLEGRAM

Guess the words defined below and write them over their numbered dashes. Then transfer each letter to the correspondingly numbered square in the pattern. The colored squares indicate word endings.

Reading from left to right, you will find that the filled pattern will contain a selected quotation from the Bible.

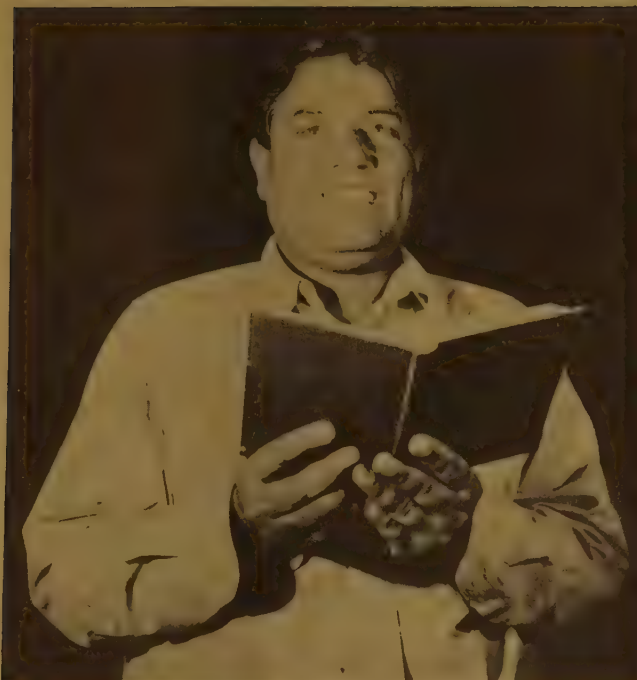
|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| A Biblical mountain -----               | 20 102 39 25 29    |
| B Four scores -----                     | 63 66 40 55 112 50 |
| C A thousand thousand -----             | 98 1 21 4 32 48 67 |
| D Separate into shares -----            | 118 44 30 59 76 14 |
| E What made Caruso famous --            | 62 52 38 108 31    |
| F Felt sympathy for someone --          | 86 34 12 7 65 18   |
| G The tapering end of anything          | 41 95 77 23 47     |
| H Home made of snow blocks --           | 27 68 35 106 82    |
| I Move with quick little jerks --       | 105 81 24 51 87 46 |
| J Any withering disease of plants ----- | 84 36 91 9 113 10  |
| K Lasso -----                           | 57 79 42 107 89 78 |
| L Vacation -----                        | 13 22 5 3 53 70 71 |
| M An instant -----                      | 49 116 69 75 8 94  |
| N Straps for driving horses ----        | 17 88 110 92 26    |

|                                       |                 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| O Upper part of a woman's dress ----- | 33 19 97 37 80  |
| P Under surface of the foot ---       | 45 16 115 104   |
| Q To blaze -----                      | 99 15 61 72 109 |
| R A dress -----                       | 93 100 54 83    |
| S As long as -----                    | 2 96 56 28 85   |
| T Tiresome persons -----              | 64 11 117 114 6 |
| U Church songs -----                  | 60 73 74 111 90 |
| V Uncommon -----                      | 101 43 103 58   |

(Solution on page 30)

|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   |     | 6   | 7   | 8   |     |     |
| 9   | 10  | 11  |     | 12  | 13  | 14  |     | 15  | 16  | 17  |     |
| 18  | 19  | 20  |     | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  |     | 25  | 26  |     |
|     | 27  |     | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |     | 32  |     | 33  | 34  |
| 35  | 36  |     | 37  | 38  | 39  | 40  |     | 41  | 42  | 43  | 44  |
| 45  | 46  |     | 47  | 48  |     | 49  | 50  |     | 51  | 52  | 53  |
|     | 54  | 55  | 56  | 57  | 58  |     | 59  |     | 60  | 61  | 62  |
| 63  |     | 64  | 65  | 66  | 67  | 68  |     | 69  | 70  | 71  |     |
| 72  | 73  |     | 74  | 75  | 76  | 77  | 78  | 79  | 80  | 81  | 82  |
| 83  |     | 84  | 85  |     | 86  | 87  | 88  | 89  | 90  | 91  | 92  |
| 93  |     | 94  | 95  |     | 96  | 97  | 98  |     | 99  | 100 | 101 |
|     | 102 |     | 103 | 104 | 105 | 106 | 107 | 108 | 109 |     | 110 |
| 111 |     | 112 | 113 | 114 |     | 115 | 116 | 117 | 118 |     |     |





Andreas Din distributes Gospel Portions to all who buy tea at his stall near a bus stop in South India

**T**HIS IS ANDREAS DIN, formerly a Mohammedan priest. Before he became a Christian, Andreas was in charge of a large Moslem temple in South India. One day, while he was a patient in a mission hospital, he overheard an evangelist preaching in the hospital. The earnestness of the man and his message haunted him for days afterwards. Andreas was surprised and pleased when the evangelist visited him in the ward and prayed for his recovery. He was even more surprised when he learned that the evangelist was a former Mohammedan.

After Andreas was discharged from the hospital, he secretly purchased a New Testament. When some of the Moslems discovered that their priest was reading a New Testament, they drove him out of the city.

"The shame and degradation of that experience," he said later, "I could not have borne alone. The Lord helped me, even as he promised in his Word."

After his conversion he boldly returned to the same

# Tea House Along an Indian Road

by Blaise Levar

—Photo from Author

city and opened a tea stall.

Near the tea stall is a railway crossing where a buses and trucks must stop. While the bus waits for the train to pass, "Tea and the Word of God—for 2 annas," he calls as he enters the bus.

"This Gospel tells you the secret of life. It promises you peace and joy. It is nice to drink tea but he who drinketh of his Word shall never thirst."

The Rev. Ernest Hahn, a missionary working among Mohammedans, states that Andreas sells 40 Gospel Portions each month.

Several years ago Andreas married a convert. They named their first son "Gift of God." In faith the couple works courageously together.

Occasionally someone in the bus rudely asks Andreas: "How can you possibly do this—you who served us as a Moslem priest? Aren't you ashamed?"

"Ashamed? No. I am gloriously happy. I never dreamed life could be so full of joy. I wonder how I ever was able to live without Christ. I want you to know him too," he tells his inquirers.

As the first missionary convert, Andreas has become a well-known figure, and is winning the respect of the villagers. He is one of the many distributors of the Bible Society of India and Ceylon which with the help of the American Bible Society distributed 1,297,686 volumes of Scriptures to travelers along the Indian road.

—by permission of the American Bible Society

Who was the writer of these favorite hymns?  
Find the name in the hymns.  
Place the correct letter in the blank space. Read downward.

—OME LET US JOIN  
C—RIST THE LORD IS  
H—RK THE HERALD  
JESUS LOVE— OF MY  
—OVE DIVINE ALL  
COM— THOU  
O FOR A THOU—AND TONGUES TO SING

## KNOW YOUR HYMNS

by Louise D. Phillips

—ITH ONE ACCORD  
RIS—N TODAY  
ANGEL— SING  
SOU—  
LOV— EXCELLING  
ALMIGHT— KING

The writer's name is \_\_\_\_\_  
Let me introduce him to you:

He was saved from a fire by his nurse when two years old.  
He was taught to read at five.

He was secretary to General Oglethorpe in the Georgia Colony.

He was a student at Oxford and worked with his brother who became the founder of Methodism. He wrote 4,100 published hymns. For over forty years these two brothers were one of the great spiritual agencies of England.

(Answer to the double acrostic—Charles Wesley)





# Family Counselor

**WE WOULD** be most grateful if you could advise us concerning our nine-year-old girl who seems socially immature. We have seen to it since she was two years old that she had other playmates besides her younger sister, who is seven.

It is disheartening to see an attractive child coming home from school despondent because she is friendless, pushed down, picked, laughed at, or ridiculed. The child is intelligent, receives good grades, likes to read, has mastered most of the activities of children her age such as roller skating, jumping rope, baton twirling, and bicycle riding. However, she has a poor sitting posture and poor muscular coordination; so she is not graceful in some of her movements.

She is aware that something is wrong when a friend turns against her or becomes distant. She asks what to do about it. On the other hand, if we ask her to change some unbecoming act or habit, she becomes a conformist and refuses to change her ways. On occasions, especially those of a social nature, or when she is trying to be the leader, she develops a loud, boisterous voice and doesn't seem to know how to control and use it to suit the situation at hand. She is a deep thinker but slow in getting started. When the children get her frustrated, she is likely to stutter, stammer, and say anything but what she means. This is so when she uses the telephone.

The child usually gets along fine if there is only one other child playing with her. Her sister is even taking her friends

away from her because she moves so slowly at times.

I feel we must be failing her as parents; the teachers are well aware of the situation but do nothing about it. How can a nine-year-old child go about winning friends?

**A**LTHOUGH you are quite properly concerned about the inability of your daughter to make and retain many different friends, there are many others like her who get their satisfactions out of one or two close friends. While you will want to encourage your daughter's development of the social graces that win friends, you will also want to accept the fact that she may never be the popular type that has many friends. If you are not too disturbed about this, your daughter, although lonely at times, should be able to adjust fairly adequately to one or two close friends.

Provide normal social activities for your daughter. Invite the friends she has to your home; have parties occasionally; perhaps, encourage a group to get interested in creative activities. Do not expect these activities to make of her a "social butterfly," however. She may continue to be a bit ill at ease when with others, a feeling of insecurity that quite naturally reflects itself in a loud voice. The more she is in situations like this, the more likely she is to learn how to get along happily.

She needs the satisfactions that

come from having a close friend, and by your adroit handling of situations, you can, perhaps, make sure that she has one or two. If the younger daughter seems to take away these friends, see to it that she is busy someplace else when these friends visit the older daughter.

Make certain, too, that you do not compare the older and younger daughters in their presence. Guide them into different activities so that they are not competing with each other.

You can encourage your daughter to develop some creative skills that give her a sense of personal achievement, and that also bring the approval and respect of her peers. With reference to her poor muscular co-ordination, perhaps you should consider giving her ballet or tap dancing lessons. It is not too unusual for a nine-year-old to be somewhat awkward.

Encourage her to join groups of girls of her own age, one of the scout groups, for example. Take an interest in her church-school class and at times have them in your own home.

Finally the public schoolteachers should be willing to help you with your problem. Find out from them why it is that the other children push your daughter and ridicule her. Get their suggestions as to what you can do. If they know of your concern perhaps they, too, will take more interest in your daughter at school and try to find ways by which they may help her.

*Daniel M. Maynard*

## MISSIONS—Family Style

(Continued from page 2)

daughter of the Navaho interpreter. Both were the same age; both held dolls; only their skin-color was different.

You may say—we can't take an extensive trip like that. How about visiting a Christian center? Spend a day there, watching the various activities, letting your children be a part of the group. Most centers or city missions are happy to have visitors. Be sure, however, to make arrangements ahead of time so that you will not intrude, unannounced, at an inconvenient time.

Even worshipping in a different type of church while on vacation can be rewarding. If you are a city dweller, you will be delighted at the warm reception of a rural community. If your vacation plans lead you into a city, you might find that a bilingual church would be most interesting. If you explain to your children that these people are worshipping God, too, although in a different language, they may be helped to understand better the faith that crosses all barriers.

In your own church there are mission activities which you can share with your children. If a son is studying some particular field at Sunday church school, talk about it at home. Perhaps there will be special offerings to give together. Or you may, as a family, pack a box of supplies to be added to your church's gift to a missionary.

Once you start thinking of such projects, you will find that missions is, indeed, coming alive for your family. You may even find that one day God has used this interest to speak to your child about service for him. In any case, you will have done your part to show your family that every Christian is a missionary.

## That Certain Some Day

(Continued from page 8)

really hadn't thought about it much until you and Daddy talked with me, but I suppose you were once young and interested in all the things that I am interested in now, and then suddenly you had us—and there you are. But I'm glad you still like us too!"

Lydia felt as if she were of an antiquated generation, but she squeezed Greg's arm and felt the silent mirth shaking his body. "Of course we love you, and like you, too, and we like doing things as a family best of all. It's just that we need to keep a part of ourselves for ourselves so that when you desert us we'll still live. We'll like you even more when we've been away awhile—as you will us."

Which was the way it turned out, as Lydia knew it would. A few days in the city and they were anxious to get home again.

"You wouldn't be getting an acute case of Motheritis," Greg chuckled, when she suggested they call the farm on the

second night at the very same hotel where they had spent their first honeymoon.

"Of course not," she scoffed. "It's just that I wondered about Kim's cold and Timmy's poison ivy." Then they grinned at each other.

"We COULD go home a day early, if you'd like. We've had our little fling and learned we can still enjoy each other's company," Greg agreed, "and when the children are married and settled down, I think we'll still be able to survive and tolerate each other, don't you?"

Lydia gave him a warm appreciative hug. He was so understanding. Perhaps from now on they could plan to go out to that Little Country Inn occasionally, just the two of them. The book would wait until the children were away at school. They would really need something constructive to do together then!

"I rather think we'll be ready when that certain Some Day comes," she smiled.

## Sammy's Friend

(Continued from page 14)

The other one who stays all the time in the park is a squirrel. He is gray and lively and bright, and he has a big bushy tail. He jumps from branch to branch so fast that when the policeman rides his bicycle the squirrel, whose name is Sammy Scoot, can go even faster. And, like Mr. Mann, Sammy has a trouble.

Now, just living with their troubles made Mr. Mann and Sammy a little sad even in a pretty park. Their troubles were different, but they had the same effect. They made those who had them unhappy. Sammy's trouble was as long as his fluffy tail, for someone might throw a stone or a piece of wood and break it. Mr. Mann's trouble was that he might lose his job.

Then came the dreadful day when Sammy's trouble really came to pass. A boy threw a stone that broke Sammy's tail. When Mr. Mann strolled under the big oak trees Sammy fell from the tree. Mr. Mann saw Sammy fall. He took off his white gloves and picked up Sammy. He drew his fine handkerchief out of his pocket and tore it into strips. Then he found two straight twigs and made splints for Sammy's tail. It did not look much like the beautiful tail now.

Sammy felt so sick from his hurt that Mr. Mann put him into one of his deep pockets to keep him safe and comfortable. For one whole week Sammy stayed there. Then he had to keep rather quiet for one whole month, until, at last, the tail was entirely mended. He was not yet feeling his usual lively self when Mr. Mann put him back into his treetop. But every day at eleven o'clock, Sammy came down the tree and went into Mr. Mann's pocket and found nuts and popcorn.

Soon after Sammy went back to the tree Mr. Mann's trouble began. It came so close that Sammy saw it. The trouble appeared in the form of two big men

with eyeglasses and wise looks. They looked under a park bench on which Mr. Mann often sat. There they found a newspaper. They looked at flower beds and decided that there should be a hundred roses on each bush. After counting them they found only forty. They were men who inspected the park and had the power to discharge Mr. Mann if they were dissatisfied with his work. If Sammy had known that, he would have been frightened, but being a squirrel he did not know about such things.

Mr. Mann knew all the ways of such things. He knew just what it meant to have people find fault with work. He knew it too well, and when he saw the wise men he had no time for Sammy but Sammy knew it was eleven o'clock and time to be fed. So Sammy dropped from the big oak tree right down on Mr. Mann's big blue shoulder and ran into the big blue pocket and began to eat.

The wise ones looked Sammy over from head to tail, but Sammy took no notice. He was hungry! Mr. Mann saw all that was going on and did not care.

The wise men began to smile. One said, "A policeman that is that kind to a squirrel will be kind to children."

"Yes," said the other. "Mr. Mann is one we can trust here. See how that squirrel trusts him!"

When Sammy and Mr. Mann had time to look at the wise men again, they saw smiles on their faces. It did not take them long to know that Mr. Mann would not lose his job.

If ever you ride through this park, you will see the policeman in a blue coat with six brass buttons down the front; and away up in the branches of a big oak tree you may see a flying fluffy gray tail and a squirrel with a quick way. If you stop long enough to sit down on a park bench, nearer and nearer the squirrel will come, until plunk! an acorn will fall right on top of your head. Then you will glance up. There Sammy will be looking down at you with his pretty head on one side and his big tail curled over one ear—just because Sammy had a friend!

## Biblegram Solution

(Biblegram on page 27)

SOLUTION: "I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD" (Psalm 104; 33-34).

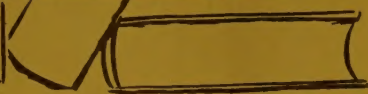
### The Words

|   |         |   |         |
|---|---------|---|---------|
| A | Sinai   | L | Holiday |
| B | Eighty  | M | Moment  |
| C | Million | N | Reins   |
| D | Divide  | O | Waist   |
| E | Voice   | P | Sole    |
| F | Pitied  | Q | Flame   |
| G | Point   | R | Gown    |
| H | Igloo   | S | While   |
| I | Jiggle  | T | Bores   |
| J | Blight  | U | Hymns   |
| K | Lariat  | V | Rare    |





## Books for the Hearthside



### For Adults

One of the most misunderstood men in our generation is Martin Niemöller of Germany. Clarissa Start Davidson, in her *God's Man* (Ives Washburn, N. Y., 1959, \$3.95), says that her two purposes in writing his biography were to clear up some of the misunderstanding and to present a warm, human picture of a man who "ranks with Albert Schweitzer as a world figure." Niemöller, who was Hitler's personal prisoner for eight years before and during World War II, is an intense, dedicated, fearless, blunt, "hang-the-consequences" kind of preacher, pastor, administrator, and ecumenical leader. Not only does this excellent biography give a vivid account of all the controversy which swirled around his head until now, it also richly fills in the picture with lighter touches. Niemöller is also a warm, human, family man as revealed in this story. When Mrs. Niemöller and a visiting pastor were talking about certain vicious criminals in the same prison which held Niemöller, the youngest son, Jan, spoke with amazed discovery, "Mother, are there bad people in prison, too?" Be sure to read this book, even as a family-read-it-out-loud-together book.

Alice Tisdale Hobart shares the warm, moving story of her life in *Gusty's Child* (Longmans, Green & Co., Inc., 1959, 343 pages, \$5). Having lived in China, the U. S., and Mexico and also in three epochs, her life has been filled with many experiences and events. To mention a few, hers was a Puritan childhood; a married life that helped her to know China in its medieval customs, its increasing

industrial activities, its communist demands; a return to the U. S., experiencing the crash of 1929, later, World War II; a stay in Mexico and then back to the U. S. Throughout the autobiography, she faithfully portrays the events and times as they were experienced. This is, indeed, an unusual autobiography and a most unusual person to become acquainted with.

### For Young People

Serilda brings back the good ole' days for the young teen-agers of today in *Serilda's Star* by Olive Rambo Cook (Longmans, Green and Co., Inc., 1959, 176 pages, \$2.95). Born in Missouri, Serilda has the exciting experiences of piloting a ferryboat, going to a one-room school house, and swapping a locket for a lame horse. Grandmother, Mother, Pa, and Jeff are in for quite a shock when Serilda brings the horse home. However, being good sports, they all pitch in and help the horse to recuperate. Even Pa takes his turn in watching the horse the first night. In fact, this one experience illustrates well, the spirit of togetherness that pervades Serilda's home.

Anne Emery has written another book for older teen-agers entitled *That Archer Girl* (The Westminster Press, 1959, 175 pages, \$2.95). The book begins by stating that "Anne Archer was a Girl Who Had Everything." Everything is spelled out as beauty, brains, clothes, social prestige, and a Thunderbird convertible. Everything in the finer qualities, though, meant poison: haughtiness, selfishness, and complete lack of concern for her

classmates except Christie Cochran and the boys. She had no time for the girls. They were absolute, total duds. Of course, Anne could turn on the charm for the servants or Mother's and Dad's friends. The ending of this book is quite different. Readers may even grow to understand and appreciate Anne, try it and see.

### For Children

Children just beginning to read will have no difficulty reading *Wanted . . . a Brother*, by Gina Bell (Abingdon Press, 1959, 32 pages, \$1.50). Timothy Piper has a sister, Anne. The only thing, though, that Timothy wanted was a brother to play with, to talk to, and to drink chocolate sodas with. There was no way to get a brother! They were not for sale; he couldn't trade anything he had for one; he couldn't even borrow one. Then he learned something from Anne—who was almost as good as a brother. George Wilde's illustrations add to the charm of this story.


*Bobby's Neighbors*, by Joyce Boyle (Abingdon Press, 1959, 96 pages, \$2), tells of the experiences of Bobby and his next-door neighbor, Linda, from fall to Christmas. Beginning as they rake the leaves in Bobby's backyard for a bonfire, the two share many adventures in their backyards and in the nearby park, as well as planning and getting ready for Christmas. Bobby is the kind of boy anyone would want as a neighbor.

Planned for children four to seven, Hertha Depper's illustrations help those who are unable to read the words to have an understanding of the story.



GO EXPLORING IN BOOKS





# Over the back fence

## Important March Dates for Families

The Month of March has in it a number of significant dates for families. In one way or another most families have been, are, or will be influenced by the organizations or events which these dates signalize. Let's consider them together.

**Red Cross Month.** The entire month is set aside for the benefit of the American Red Cross. In communities where United Fund programs are in force, the Red Cross participates. Many families have found the Red Cross as a friend in need in times of disaster and trouble.

**National 4-H Club Week.** Boys and girls of countless farm and town homes have received inspiration for head, heart, hands, and health through the wonderful work of this organization.

**Girl Scout Week.** The 48th anniversary of the Girl Scout movement falls on March 12 in this week, March 6-13. Over three million girls are a part of this program.

**Camp Fire Girls' Birthday Week.** The 50th anniversary of work by this organization is being celebrated. Although probably not as widely known as Girl Scouts this program for girls has wielded a great influence over their lives.

March birthdays of famous persons who have made their mark on our lives include those of Luther Burbank, Andrew Jackson, James Madison, Charles William Eliot, Robert Frost, Knute Rockne, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., Albert Einstein, and David Livingstone.

March may be the month of "ill" winds but it has blown much

of goodness into the life of world.

### Making a "Student Code"

A number of cities and communities in the United States have developed "Student Codes" which help to determine standards of conduct for young people. In every instance these have been operative projects of young people, their parents, and high school teachers.

Such codes have helped to eliminate some of the tensions that exist when there is no clear-cut understanding, mutually arrived at and acceptable, regarding such problems as dating, hours of coming home from parties, appropriate dress, behavior in public places, and use of makeup.

Communities, small or large, whose parents are interested in discovering how such codes may be developed will find help by writing to the American Institute of Family Relations, 5287 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles 27, California, asking for the reprint of the article "How to Make a 'Student Code.'" These are available at 10¢ per copy.

### Still a Problem

Although a recent survey indicates that over nine out of ten children in the United States live in two-parent homes it remains true that over six million children are living in one-parent homes. Most of these "one-parent" parents are greatly concerned about how to be both father and mother to their children.

Not all their problems can be answered or solved easily but a good start toward solutions is provided in a recent Public Affairs Pamphlet, No. 287, entitled *The One-Parent Family*, by Anna W. M. Wolf and Lucille Stein. It is available for 25 cents from the Public Affairs Pamphlets, 22 East 38th Street, New York 16, N. Y. Additional helpful pamphlets are, No. 136b, *New Facts About Birth Control*; No. 285, *Your Child's Friends*; and No. 278, *Your Child and His Reading*.



## One Path Toward Proof

Reach

To the outer realms of the universe.

What is there?

A perfection of plan that could not occur

By chance.

Where is the Knowledge that made it?

Search

In the innermost core of the atom  
Minutely.

Explore

The amoeba, a leaf on a tree,

A virus, an ant, the dust in the air.

What is there?

You cannot deny the perfection  
you find.

You cannot deny the Omnipotent  
Mind

That made it.

—Mildred Fielder



—Photo by Della B. Vik

The Pasqueflower or Crocus

## Poetry Page

### There Is No Doubt

To feel the sun's rays on the face,  
To feel the wind and rain,  
To watch the Spring's soft fingers trace  
Away the Winter's pain;

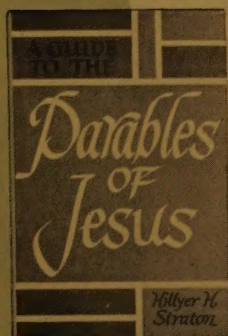
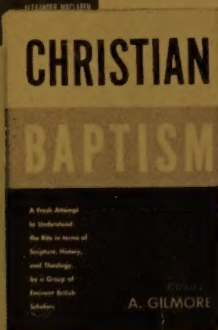
To watch the flowers' buds spread out  
O'er the green-covered sod,  
There never should be cause to doubt  
The Love and Truth of God.

—James E. Nichols

—Religious News Service





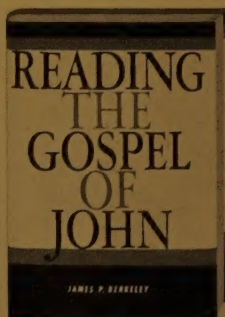
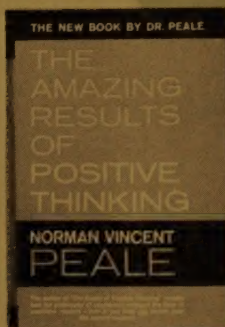


#### WITH CHRIST IN THE UPPER ROOM.

By Lynn J. Radcliffe. A book of such insight and so alive with personal meanings that no reader can help but feel, practically live, the stirring message of the "Upper Room" .....\$1.50

#### 365 WINDOWS.

By Halford E. Luccock. Here are devotions of unusual strength. They enliven and stimulate the spiritual faculties; on dedication, personal worth, service, gratitude and others .....\$2.00



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BOOKS  
FOR  
LENTEN  
READING